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PART XI.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

March 1877.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Correspondence respecting Affairs in Turkey.

Part XI.

No. 1.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 1.)

(No. 9. Political.)

My Lord, *Erzeroom, January* 30, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of my despatch No. 13, addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, giving some details on the disturbed state of the district of Bitlis, and the menacing attitude of the Mootkan Koords.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Consul Zohrab to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Erzeroom, January* 30, 1877.

I HAD the honour to inform your Excellency yesterday, by telegraph in cypher, of the disturbed state of Bitlis, as follows:—

"Panic in Bitlis district, several murders, many villages devastated, others deserted by inhabitants from dread of Koords, who threaten the town. Inhabitants, Mussulman, Christian, watch armed in their barricaded houses."

I received a letter from the Reverend Mr. Knapp, American Missionary at Bitlis, dated 13th January, in which that gentleman gives me details of a very distressing nature. Later letters and information I have gathered here show that Mr. Knapp has been very modest in his statements, and that Bitlis, instead of being troubled with a passing excitement or paroxism, is threatened with serious dangers.

It appears that the Koords of Bitlis, Moosh, and the Mootkan district have agreed to take advantage of the disorganized state of the country and the weakness of the Government to commence raids on an extensive scale, and though the country is still covered with snow they have commenced operations in the district of Bitlis.

The Christian village of Pakhant, about five miles from Bitlis, was attacked about the 8th instant, two of the inhabitants were killed, and all the property of the villagers carried off; the villagers sought refuge in Bitlis. This attack was followed by raids on other villagers in the Mootkan district, resulting in a general flight of the inhabitants to Bitlis. The Koords, it appears, have told the Christians that they will be left unmolested in their villages if each Christian man will pay a yearly fine of 200 piastres to the Koord Chiefs, but this the Christians consider as a snare to get them back to their villages, there to become an easy prey to Koordish lust and greed.

In Bitlis the alarm is great, several night attacks on private houses in the town by bands of twenty and thirty Koords have terrified the people, and reports that the Koords of Mooktan have collected in force and intend to make a general attack on the town,

have spread consternation. The houses are barricaded, the inhabitants are armed and keep nightly watch on the roofs of their houses, and on two or three occasions the bazaars have been abandoned at midday, the people, Mussulman and Christian, fleeing to and barricading themselves in their houses, on the alarm that the Koords were approaching.

As yet nothing beyond isolated cases of house-breaking and levying of black-mail has happened in Bitlis, but the people appear to dread an attack in force by the Koords, against which they could not offer much resistance, and it is more than probable that such an attack will result in leaving a heap of ruins to indicate where Bitlis stood.

I called the attention of the Governor-General and of Samih Pasha to this state of affairs; they did not seem aware that matters were so serious, and though Bitlis no longer depends on this Pashalik (it belongs now to the new vilayet of Van) they both telegraphed to the authorities there and at Moosh for full details, and they promised that their best efforts would be employed to check further disorder.

Samih Pasha told me very candidly that he could not spare troops to be stationed at Bitlis, for, he said, if he gave soldiers to protect every town which was now menaced by Koords, he would be left without an army to protect the frontier or garrison the fortresses; all he could do was to station a battalion at Bitlis for a few days to overawe the Koords, but the people of each town must create their own police force, and thus provide for their own protection.

I told his Excellency that I feared the mere temporary presence of a few troops at menaced points and the organization of local defence corps would prove futile in overawing tribes which could muster thousands of men, and I apprehended shortly that Bitlis and other towns situated near the Koord countries would be unsafe, even if protected by ten or fifteen battalions. His Excellency said he was aware that the country was in a state of great danger, but his powers were limited, and the people would have to learn that they must, in a great measure, look to themselves for protection and the means of holding the Koords in check.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

No. 2.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 10. Political.)
My Lord, *Erzeroom, January 31, 1877.*

THE efforts of the Turkish Government to get the 4th Army Corps up to a war standard have resulted in bringing the corps to the following strength up to the present date:—

Infantry—14 battalions infantry of the line (Nizam); 3 battalions, rifles; 44 battalions, Rediffs (reserve or militia); 5 companies of Sappers.

Cavalry—22 squadrons.

Artillery—12 batteries, horse artillery; 12 batteries, foot artillery; 3 batteries, mountain guns; 1 battery, mitrailleuses.

Total of all arms, Erzeroom Division, 40,000 men.

At Batoom. Infantry—32 battalions of the line and Rediffs; 3 companies, Sappers.

Artillery—5 batteries of artillery.

Total at Batoom, 24,000 men.

To this force will be shortly added, it is stated, 25,000 men from the 5th Army Corps, 15,000 being destined for this part of the country, and 10,000 for Batoom.

The Government is also busily engaged in enrolling volunteers from the Circassians, Koords, and Kurapapaks.

Thus taking the force now ready, and what may be collected by the end of March, the army destined to repel an advance of the Russians into Anatolia may be estimated at 100,000.

This would be an imposing force could the Government depend on its steadiness and devotion; but, unfortunately, fully one-half, or about 50,000 men, will prove only a burden and a source of difficulty and danger to the State instead of being an aid.

Of the Bashi-Bazouks the Circassians alone will prove faithful, and will fight with energy. The Koords and Karapapaks join only for the sake of plunder, and they will, when they have collected under the Turkish flag all the booty they can seize, either retire

to the mountains, or join the Russians, in whose pay many thousands are now known to be.

The Rediffs, who now constitute more than two-thirds of the regular army, are discontented and insubordinate, and they only wait for the opening of the country to desert in large numbers. Even now, though the country is covered with snow, men desert in numbers which would appal the commanders of any European army. Batches of 10, 15, and 20 men disappear daily from the battalions without creating uneasiness, and it was only a few days since 117 men deserted from one battalion in a body that remarks were made in this town.

The Turkish Government commenced bringing up their army to a war standard, as everything else in Turkey is done, by beginning where they should have ended, and collecting the men before they had barrack accommodation, before they had stores of food, hospital accommodation, doctors, medicines, ambulances, clothes, or money either for salaries or for paying for necessaries. Thus thousands of men were brought together without the means being at hand to maintain them, and from the first call to arms to the present time commanding officers have had their energies and abilities taxed, not to bring up their men to a state of efficiency, but in devising means to get food and clothes for them.

Most of the Rediffs were induced to join their colours by the assurance that they would not be required for more than three months. This promise not having been kept, and the men finding themselves exposed to every kind of hardship and receiving no pay, are very naturally discontented and irritated; and they, not without reason, argue that, if their sufferings are already so great without war, they must become unbearable when the campaign begins. They consequently look upon desertion as their only means of salvation, and well-informed persons are persuaded when the spring sets in the 40 or 50 battalions now under arms will be rapidly reduced to mere skeletons, and the whole burden of the war will, therefore, fall on the few battalions of regular infantry which have been rescued from the wreck of the Herzegovinian insurrection.

I have, &c.

No. 3.

Vice-Consul Billotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 2. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, February 7, 1877.*

THE news of the breaking off of the Conference, and of the departure of the Delegates, as well as of the Ambassadors of the Six Great Powers, which was wired to the Pasha on the 25th ultimo, and according to orders published immediately in the local Turkish paper, has elicited feelings which I consider it my duty to report for your Lordship's information.

The Pasha, whom I saw shortly after, was in great anxiety. He explained to me that the Turkish Government had always used towards the Mussulman populations, even exaggerating its consequences, the fear of incurring the displeasure of Europe, as a means for keeping them under control; and that as this displeasure had at last been incurred, and this powerful instrument of coercion was lost, he was in dread that the Mussulmans should be impressed with the idea that no worse could befall them, and become unmanageable in a moment so critical as the present. He added, that he detected in the wording of the telegram of the Porte a similar anxiety, and that he was using his utmost endeavours to prevent the idea from taking ground.

I cannot say how far the view taken by the Pasha is correct, but the first impression produced among the Mussulmans was certainly strong, although it would be difficult for me to describe its exact nature.

It was a sentiment of astonishment mingled with disquietude as to what might be the next step of Europe, and with unfriendliness towards the Christians in general, and the Europeans in particular.

According to the popular notions in this quarter the departure of an Ambassador amounts to a declaration of war; the Ambassadors of the Six Great Powers had left at the same time; the Turks expected, and were decided to fight with Russia; but they had never dwelt upon the eventuality of having to contend against all Europe.

In a short time, however, they came round, and considered that things were not so gloomy as they appeared to be at first; Chargés d'Affaires having been left at Constantinople, diplomatic relations were not broken off; and the popular good sense told them,

besides, that the interest of the European Powers, in general, was not to fight against them for the promotion of Russian views. They came, therefore, to the conclusion that what Europe might do after all was, as they expected, to remain neutral, leaving them to adjust themselves by arms their quarrel with Russia.

Having been confirmed in this opinion by the perusal of the Turkish papers of Constantinople, they have now resumed their former equanimity, and are elated at the success which they consider their Government to have obtained on European diplomacy.

After having seen in the papers the attitude assumed by the heads of the different Christian communities in the Great National Council, their relations with the native Christians have become from day to day more and more friendly, and they live now on the most cordial terms with them. They continue, however, to look with suspicion on Europeans, and vent their feelings by occasional contemptuous language.

The Christians, on their side, are glad of the turn which events have taken; they seem to think that their aspirations, which, according to them, were blighted of late, are now entering on a more hopeful path. The intelligent Greeks look forward to England, not for the overthrow of Turkey, but for their being placed on a real footing of equality with the Mussulmans, when they expect, in the course of time, to supersede them in the direction of the Government.

The real tie between the Mussulmans and the Christians at present is their common hate of Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 4.

Edhem Pasha to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

Sublime Porte, le 14 Février, 1877.

My Lord,

LE Gouvernement Impérial est résolu à accomplir toutes les réformes dont le principe a été solennellement proclamé, et à doter le pays des institutions qui découlent de la Constitution. Il s'est mis à l'œuvre et poursuivra sa tâche avec la plus grande persévérance.

La branche la plus importante de l'Administration, celle qui s'impose particulièrement à la sollicitude du Gouvernement Impérial, est évidemment l'organisation des Tribunaux, qui doit assurer la justice à tous suivant les prescriptions de la Constitution.

C'est pourquoi la Sublime Porte s'est décidée à faire étudier avec tout le soin que comporte l'importance de la matière, les systèmes d'administration judiciaire en usage dans les différents pays de l'Europe, afin d'en retirer les notions nécessaires pour la réorganisation de nos propres institutions judiciaires.

Cette mission a été confiée à Vahan Effendi, Sous-Secrétaire d'Etat au Ministère de la Justice, que je prends la liberté d'introduire auprès de votre Seigneurie et que ses connaissances spéciales, son expérience, et sa capacité recommandaient au choix du Gouvernement Impérial.

Vahan Effendi trouvera, je n'en doute pas, auprès de votre Seigneurie, un accueil bienveillant et toutes les facilités désirables pour l'accomplissement de sa mission. Ce fonctionnaire, qui est naturellement au courant des vues et des sentiments du Gouvernement Impérial, est chargé en même temps de fournir à votre Seigneurie des informations sur les efforts de la Sublime Porte pour accomplir son œuvre de régénération et sur l'état général des choses à Constantinople.

Dans la conviction que votre Seigneurie voudra bien lui accorder la même confiance dont elle a honoré Odian Effendi, je suis heureux de saisir, &c.

(Signé) EDHEM.

No. 5.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 18. Political.)

Cettigné, February 18, 1877.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 17, of yesterday's date, I have had the honour to report to your Lordship the result of the discussions in which I have taken part respecting the choice of the seat of the negotiations for peace between Turkey and Montenegro.

I have not thought it necessary to occupy your Lordship's time by a detailed account of the lengthy conversations which I have recently had with the Prince, and in which I have adduced such arguments in favour of a conciliatory policy as I have thought would be most calculated to produce upon His Highness's mind the impression desired by Her Majesty's Government.

I hope that your Lordship will nevertheless believe that I have, to the best of my capacity, taken advantage of every occasion to give such advice as I understand that Her Majesty's Government would wish me to offer; and that I have at the same time scrupulously avoided using any language which could be construed into pledging them to any direct interference in the negotiations which the Delegates of the Prince will shortly commence at Constantinople.

In advising the Prince to concede the point as to the seat of the negotiations, I did, however, state to him that I had received your Lordship's renewed orders to urge upon him the expediency of raising no unnecessary difficulties, and, consequently, when His Highness asked me, the day before yesterday, to telegraph to Her Majesty's Government that he had been greatly influenced by their opinion, and hoped that they would not object to press upon the Porte the policy of treating him with generosity, I readily undertook to convey the message, without, of course, saying a word that could imply that I was, or that I could be, authorized to make any promises in the sense he desired.

Your Lordship's telegram, in reply, reached me last night, and I went to the Palace this morning and communicated its tenour to the Prince, who expressed himself as much gratified at the instructions which your Lordship has addressed to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople.

His Highness had also received a telegram from Prince Gortchakow congratulating him upon his decision, and wishing success to the negotiations.

The extreme friendliness with which the Prince treats me, and which enables me to pass at least an hour every day in intimate and private conversation with him, has afforded me ample opportunity of laying frankly before His Highness, in a simple and informal manner, my opinion of the policy which, in his own interests, he should pursue. I believe that he is now persuaded that he has no right to count upon any previous pledges that may have been made by Servia, seeing that, to employ the language of the arguments furnished to me by Sir Andrew Buchanan, "the fortune of war has relieved her from engagements which could only be binding upon a successful belligerent." I believe also that His Highness accepts as well-founded my opinion that neither England nor any other of the Great Powers will join Russia in using coercive measures towards Turkey, and that, therefore, it is essential to profit by the present opportunity of coming to terms with the Porte.

On the other hand, I must declare, in justice to the Prince, that, while in no way concealing from himself the gravity of his position, and his responsibility towards Europe, he as yet steadily refuses to entertain the idea of concluding peace on conditions of merely nominal advantage; and that his language gives evidence of a careful study of the situation, and of a dispassionate estimate of all the chances for and against him, which, at any rate, show that he is not likely to adopt a rash policy without counting the cost beforehand; and, although I am not able to accept as universally correct either his premises or his conclusions, nor to credit him with infallibility in his calculations, and unerring sagacity in his statesmanship, I cannot refuse to acknowledge his profound acquaintance with the people and politics of the Western Provinces of European Turkey, nor to recognize that the adventurous course to which his sentiments incline, includes, side by side with its undoubted risks, many a promising element of success.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 6.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 191.)

Vienna, February 26, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE spoken to Baron Orczy of the alleged preparations for war reported in Mr. Freeman's despatch of the 16th instant, and he positively denies that any additions have been recently made to the Austrian troops on the frontiers of Bosnia and Dalmatia. He explains the arrival of guns as being merely a part of the operation in progress for supplying the army with the new gun, and he says that the filling up of the magazines on the frontier is a mere normal measure, and that the notification to the Honveds at Bosna-

Serai is always given in spring by the Austro-Hungarian Consuls to the Hungarian subjects residing within their jurisdiction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 7.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 146.)
My Lord, *Paris, February 27, 1877.*

THIS morning, in obedience to your Lordship's instructions, I communicated to the Duc Decazes the substance of Mr. Consul Green's telegram of the 25th instant, respecting the summons dispatched by the Turkish Commander-in-chief to the Mirdites; and I expressed to his Excellency the hope of Her Majesty's Government that he would instruct the French Consul at Scutari to unite with his English colleague in urging conciliatory advice.

The Duke has this evening spoken to me on the subject.

He says that he feels a difficulty in sending instructions to the French Consul to act as Mr. Green appears to have done, and to press the Mirdites to take the communication of the Turkish Commander-in-chief into serious consideration. He tells me that he has been for some time in possession of information respecting the proceedings of the Turks towards the Mirdites, and has urged the Porte to send orders to put a stop to them. If the Porte had entered into an engagement with the Powers respecting the treatment of the Mirdites there might perhaps be reason to hope that the engagement would be kept. But the Duke feels no confidence that promises made by the Turks only to the Mirdites themselves will be kept, and he shrinks from the responsibility of encouraging the Mirdites to trust to such promises.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 8.

Musurus Pasha to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(Confidentielle.)
My Lord, *Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le 27 Février,* 1877.

J'AI l'honneur d'accuser réception de la note confidentielle de votre Excellence d'aujourd'hui, relative à la question d'un Agent du Gouvernement Impérial à Belgrade, et dont j'ai immédiatement télégraphié la teneur à son Excellence Safvet Pacha.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) MUSURUS.

No. 8*.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 1, 1877.*

WITH reference to your telegram of 27th I approve your language to Turkish Chargé d'Affaires respecting reduction of armaments and reforms recommended by Conference.

No. 9.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, March 1, 1877.*

NEWS of peace between Turkey and Servia received here with general content.

No. 10.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 1, 1877.*

FOLLOWING is from Mr. Monson, dated yesterday:—

"Tell Foreign Office Porte announces extension of the armistice until 21st instant exclusively. Prince Nicholas consults Prince Milan before replying."

No. 11.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 1, 1877.*

ITALIAN Ambassador here has communicated to Minister for Foreign Affairs information similar to that reported by Sir A. Paget as to Porte's intentions to ask for explanation of Russia's mobilization, and to propose mutual disarmament, but no confirmation of report has been received from other sources.

No. 12.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 1, 1877.*

INTELLIGENCE has been received here that the difficulty with the Mirdites has been got over for the present by the release of the imprisoned delegates.

No. 13.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1, 5·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, March 1, 1877, 4·15 P.M.*

INSTRUCTIONS have been sent to the Italian Consul at Scutari to join his English colleague in recommending prudence and conciliation, as desired in your Lordship's telegram of the 26th ultimo.

No. 14.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 1, 1877.*

EVERY effort has been made to obtain information asked for by your telegram of the 15th ultimo, but detailed statements are very difficult to obtain.

List of persons condemned by Philippopolis special Commission will be sent by to-morrow's post; but though information has been promised from Roustchouk, Sofia, and Adrianople, it had not been received yet.

No. 15.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 1, 1877, 6·40 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Government learn with satisfaction the result of the peace negotiations with Servia, and they approve your efforts to assist in arriving at the present arrangement.

No. 16.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 117.) *Foreign Office, March* 1, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to your telegram of the 28th ultimo, I have to express the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt the result of the negotiations for peace between the Porte and Servia; and I have to convey to you their approval of your efforts to assist in arriving at the present arrangement.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 17.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 51.) *Foreign Office, March* 1, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve the language which you held to the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, as reported in your telegram of the 27th ultimo, respecting the expediency of an announcement by the Porte of its intention to reduce its armaments and to carry into effect the reforms recommended by the Conference.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 18.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March* 1, *at night.)*

Constantinople, March 1, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

THE Mirdite Chief Markos, whose imprisonment at Scutari was the principal cause of the disturbances, has been liberated to-day and allowed to return to his tribe. Grand Vizier promised me this some days ago, but he has only now sent orders to do so unconditionally. It is to be hoped that tranquillity will be now restored.

No. 19.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.†—(Received March 1, *at night.)*

St. Petersburgh, March 1, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to telegram from Sir A. Paget received here to-day, I cannot too strongly state my conviction that any summons on the part of Turkey to Russia to disarm, or even any proposition, however conciliatory, for a simultaneous disarmament, will be resented by Russia, and will lead to immediate war.

No. 20.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 2.)

(No. 12.) *Scutari, February* 19, 1877.

My Lord,

IN support of the opinion expressed to your Lordship in all my recent reports concerning the attitude that would be probably assumed by the Roman Catholic tribes of North Albania, I have the honour to transmit herewith the translation of a letter addressed by the Italian Franciscan Missionary in the district of Pulati to my Italian colleague, M. Berio.

I will not trouble your Lordship with details of the incidents alluded to in the missionary's letter, and will merely state that the mountaineers have thought the Turkish

* Repeated to Paris and Rome.

† Repeated to Constantinople.

authorities here have attempted to trick them out of the right to be governed by Christian Mudirs, which, they understood, was conceded through the new Constitution.

Having ascertained from more than one trustworthy source that the information of Padre Angelo was not exaggerated, I called upon Dervish Pasha, the Commander-in-Chief, the Vali being unable to attend to business owing to serious illness, and urged him to take steps for calming the excited mountaineers.

His Excellency said that the authorities had been deceived by some of the chiefs, who had led them to believe that their tribes wanted to be governed by Moslem Mudirs, but as the Government had no other wish than to satisfy the mountaineers, he would endeavour to obtain the speedy cancelling of the appointments of the obnoxious sub-governors.

Although there is no doubt that what may be termed a revolutionary feeling is making itself apparent among the Roman Catholic tribes, still, I trust, Dervish Pasha's promised conciliatory measure will restore temporary, if not permanent, tranquillity.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 20.

M. Angelo to M. Berio.

(Translation.)

Sir,

I BELIEVE that you will be desirous to receive some information regarding these tribes of ours, and here I am to give you a few but exact details, and they concern all the tribes of Pulati without exception.

All the youth, and the greater part of the chiefs, as soon as they heard the Sultan had conceded that the Catholics might have a Catholic Governor, decided that they no longer would have a Turk (Mahommedan), but a Catholic.

When during the first days of the current month they were summoned to Scutari by the Pasha, the few who decided to go were recommended by the multitude (majority) not to bring to the mountains a Turkish (Mahommedan) Governor, threatening that if one was brought he would not be allowed to remain, and would be driven off ignominiously. The famous Mark Lula, with a few of his adherents, wished to have his own way and not that of the people, but the latter maintained what they had said and drove back the unacceptable Governor. (And about this matter, I believe, you have been minutely informed by others.)

It would now be well that his Excellency the Pasha should be advised not to treat these people with harshness but with the greatest softness, setting at liberty the poor men who are unjustly detained (as hostages), and granting them a Catholic Governor, and he may, possibly, by this means, congratulate himself on having them on his side. Acting in any other way he may be sure that these people will take other determinations which will not be pleasant for his Excellency.

I give you this information privately.

At this very moment, whilst I am writing to you, a deputation to me of the youth of Scialla and Scioscì has arrived, and begs me to communicate to you what I have told you above also in its name, and that the resolution of wishing to have a Catholic Governor is immovable, and further, that these peoples have great faith in your assistance. This is the information I give you, and you can make whatever use of it you may think most opportune.

In the meantime I am, &c.,

(Signed) FR. GIO. ANGELO,
Parish Priest of Pulati.

No. 21.

M. Zankof to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 2.)

Excellence, *Bucarest (Roumanie), Cafeu Mositor,* 105, *le* 25 *Février,* 1877.

LE Soussigné a l'honneur de remettre à votre Excellence ci-inclus, de la part de plusieurs districts de la Bulgarie, une pétition adressée au Parlement Anglais en langue Bulgare et signée par les notables de ces districts, ainsi qu'une traduction Anglaise de cette Pétition.

L'initiative qu'a bien voulu prendre le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine d'Angleterre pour l'amélioration du sort de la nation Bulgare est une preuve assez éclatante pour que cette nation ait toujours les regards vers l'Angleterre. Le peuple Bulgare comprend déjà que le résultat de l'initiative Anglaise, les propositions de la Conférence de Constantinople, ne sera exécuté que par ce même grand peuple d'Angleterre.

Voilà pourquoi le peuple Bulgare ne s'adresse pour l'exécution prompte des propositions de la Conférence qu'au peuple Anglais, et votre Excellence daignera, le Soussigné l'espère, en soumettant au Parlement les vœux des pétitionnaires, employer son influence bienveillante pour l'accomplissement de l'œuvre commencé avec tant de bienveillance de cette Angleterre qui se fera un titre de plus de reconnaissance d'un peuple si intéressant sous tous les rapports.

Le Soussigné a ajouté au mot exécution l'adjectif prompte, parce que, d'après les rapports qu'il reçoit tous les jours, l'Administration Turque est devenue pire qu'avant la Conférence de Constantinople et que les Turcs n'entendent autre chose, par leur fameuse Constitution, que le retour au Chériat et par conséquent les malheurs des Bulgares augmentent de jour en jour.

Le Soussigné, en signant tout seul cette lettre, doit remarquer à votre Excellence qu'en attendant que les affaires s'arrangent en Bulgarie, mon collègue, M. Bulabanow, s'est établi à Vienne, et le Soussigné à Bucarest, où il a reçu la susdite Pétition.

Le Soussigné désirait adresser cette Pétition à votre Excellence par l'intermédiaire de l'Agent Diplomatique d'Angleterre à Bucarest, mais il se trouve dans ce moment à Roustchouk.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) D. ZANKOF.

Inclosure in No. 21.

Petition.

(Translation of the Bulgarian.)

To the Honourable and most respectful Gentlemen, Representatives in both Chambers of the English Parliament.

My Lords,

THE Bulgarian nation believed that the Conference summoned in Constantinople by the Plenipotentiaries of the six Great Powers will dry up once for ever the spring of its sufferings and groanings, and will open to it the way of peace and prosperity; but its conspired enemy paralyzed its hope by refusing to accept the propositions of this Conference.

The Turkish Government rejected the propositions of the Great Powers by placing before them the Constitution extemporized by Midhat Pasha. And what good did the wretched nationalities in Turkey derive from it? This Constitution has been officially published two months ago, that is, on the 25th of December, 1876, and until the present day we do not see any change in the administration of the Turkish Empire, as well as in the general tendency of the spirit of the Mussulmans. The threatening of new massacres, the plunder, the murders, the rape, are deeds which never have ceased. Everywhere the nation complains of the wrongs committed by the Councils, and of the heavy taxation and compulsory assistance of the zaptiehs (police officers), and of the soldiers who are called to arms, &c., &c. Everything is going on worse and worse than it was before the proclamation of the Constitution.

When Turkey was not a Constitutional Government, we, the Bulgarians, enjoyed at least ecclesiastical sovereignty, obtained with so much trouble and sacrifices after a long and obstinate controversy with the Greek clergy; while now they try to deprive us from it, because the Exarch has not been willing to express his thanks for the Constitution, having said that beforehand he desires to see the exact realization of its laws and its good results already promised.

Indeed, according to the Constitutional law, several individuals were chosen from the Bulgarians also, some for delegates in the Parliament, others for Kaïmakams (governor of a secondary county), for Mudirs (petty governor of district), but this was done without the least knowledge of the population; consequently the Bulgarian nation does not expect any good from the former as well as from the latter, both being chosen by the Government and being men belonging to the Government and not to their country, and as such

they will follow the policy of the Government and little will they care for the interest of their own countrymen. Besides that the number of the Turkish representatives being comparatively greater than that of the Christians, the majority in the Parliament will be always on the side of the Turks, so that even if we suppose that among the latter will be found such who will energetically defend the interests of the nationalities to which they belong, again their voice will be void because the majority of the Turks will be always against it.

Therefore, it is a great error if the Bulgarian nation expects any good from the new-proclaimed Constitution. It sees that this Constitution is nothing more than a mere reiteration of the Hatti-Humaïouns and Hatti-Sherif which never have been carried out. Consequently the Bulgarians are contented with no reforms promised by the Turkish Government without being obliged to guarantee for them before the Great Powers.

In consequence of that the Bulgarians, encouraged by the warm-hearted sympathy which the great English nation has testified lately towards their unfortunate condition, and by the promptness with which it came to their help, as well as by the cordial reception of their delegates, take the liberty to have recourse to you, gentlemen, its distinguished representatives, and beg most humbly of you to stretch your helping hand to them by inducing the Porte to receive the propositions of the Conference.

It is not a foreign instigation, as some are wont to believe, which has made the Bulgarian nation to undertake to seek a remedy for its intolerable condition, and to have recourse to the most desperate means. A nation, which has historical traditions more or less glorious, with a numerical importance, and which has been treated for five centuries as slaves in the true sense of the word, is it not entitled to claim a better and more suitable condition, a condition which will insure to it the goods, the life, and the honour of its domestic hearth, and will allow it to stride freely in the paths of civilization?

There is nobody in the world who, considering the historical life of the Turks, their present financial bankruptcy, and the utmost poverty of their subjugated nations, in spite of the fertility of the soil which they inhabit, and their industry, is not convinced that the Ottomans are not able to govern, and that by their rough and wild character, which clearly exhibited itself in the wholesale massacres of last year, and by their severe religious fanaticism, they are, for Europe, in the present civilized century, a disgraceful anachronism; therefore, if Europe takes from the hands of the Turkish race the administration of these beautiful and rich countries, and entrusts it to their proper sons, full of power and ability to govern themselves, incomparably better than the Turkish administrators, who are deprived of the most elementary knowledge, she will perform a deed for which all future civilized centuries will be grateful to her.

Nations never forget their benefactors. If the great English nation helps the Bulgarians to secure, partially, at least, their privileges, it will see how much in the future the Bulgarian nation will be grateful for this favour.

There is nothing which prevents Great Britain to do for the Bulgarians that which she has done once for the Greeks, and there is no reason why the Bulgarians will not be grateful, if not more, at least so much as the Greeks are. The wounds of the Bulgarian wretched nation are deep, and he who cures them will earn its sympathies and its gratitude for ever.

Believing, gentlemen, that the despaired supplications of a Christian nation, wronged, persecuted, plundered, dishonoured, and murdered, by the cruellest and most barbarous manner, will find an echo in your noble hearts, and that its hopes intrusted to you, as to a last asylum, will be fully realized, we beg of you to receive the assurances of our deep respect and consideration to you.

Your most obedient servants,
(Follow the signatures of the Deputies of ten towns in Bulgarin, namely, Tirnovo, Rustchuck, Sliven, Shumla, Varna, Sistow, Tulcha, Vidin, Sophia, and Kotel.)

Tirnovo, February $\frac{1}{13}$, 1877.

No. 22.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, March 2.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 1 *Mars*, 1877.

PAR l'initiative et sous l'auguste patronage de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, une Ecole Civile d'Administration a été fondée à Constantinople, dans laquelle seront admis

les élèves Musulmans et non-Musulmans sans distinction. Cette institution est destinée à former des fonctionnaires pour toutes les administrations de l'Etat soit pour la capitale, soit pour les provinces, y compris les emplois de la diplomatie. Elle témoigne hautement de la ferme volonté de Sa Majesté Impériale d'élever le niveau des études qui doivent rendre les jeunes Ottomans aptes à l'exercice des fonctions publiques, et surtout de ne laisser subsister aucune distinction entre les Musulmans et les non-Musulmans, et de faire du mérite personnel l'unique titre aux emplois de l'Etat.

No. 23.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, March 2.*)

Constantinople, le 1 Mars, 1877.

(Télégraphique.)

COMME les Délégués Monténégrins ne sont pas encore arrivés à Constantinople pour commencer les négociations de paix, nous avons cru nécessaire de prolonger jusqu'au 21 Mars, nouveau style, exclusivement, l'armistice qui a expiré hier. Son Altesse le Grand Vizir a déjà télégraphié cette décision au Prince Nicolas, en le priant de donner, de son côté, des ordres en conséquence. Quant à la Servie, il n'y avait pas lieu de prendre mesure, les négociations qui sont en bonne voie étant sur le point d'aboutir.

No. 24.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.[a]—(*Received March 2.*)

Cettigné, March 1, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

PRINCE NICHOLAS telegraphs to Grand Vizier that foreseeing that the Montenegrin Delegates would not arrive at Constantinople before the expiration of the armistice, he had already given orders to his Commanders not to commit nor permit any act of hostility whatever without orders from himself.

His Highness is evidently annoyed at the want of courtesy in the Grand Vizier's last message, announcing the prolongation of the armistice and almost bidding him to give orders in consequence.

Servian Government telegraphs that the Skuptschina has agreed to make peace on the basis of the *status quo*, and that Prince Milan waits for the consent of his ally before sanctioning the Treaty.

Prince Nicholas has not yet sent an answer to Belgrade, but he thinks that Servia ought at least to wait until his Delegates arrive at Constantinople.

It is my duty to state to Her Majesty's Government that at present Prince Nicholas is by no means disposed to make peace without very substantial advantages, and that, in my opinion, he will not easily give way. I think it right also to point out that he is very susceptible as to language which the Porte employs to him, and that any attempt at dictation will probably interrupt the negotiations.

No. 25.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March 2.*)

Vienna, March 2, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING from Monson, dated yesterday:—

"For Lord Derby. With reference to my telegram of this afternoon, I am informed that Prince Nicholas has telegraphed to Prince Milan, in very calm language, that in view of the prejudice which Servia's separate action would cause to Montenegrin interests, he cannot [assent to ?] Prince Milan's ratification of the Servian Assembly."

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[a] Repeated to Constantinople.

No. 26.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March 2, 2 P.M.*)

Paris, March 2, 1877, 12·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs has been informed by Prince Gortchakow that as General Ignatiew wants to consult an oculist, advantage has been taken of the opportunity to instruct him to go to Berlin, Vienna, Paris, and London, in which capitals he will give explanations which will facilitate the answers to the Russian Circular.

No. 27.

Mr. Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March 2.*)

Tiflis, March 2, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

RELATIVE to expected arrival at Tiflis of the 38th and 20th divisions mentioned in despatches Nos. 25, 26, and 27, these divisions, with the exception of four battalions, just arrived, were I find on the frontier. Despatch No. 28 sent by hand will explain all. There are altogether in the Caucasus but seven divisions, statement given in despatch No. 19 will be nearly correct. Despatch No. 29 sent.

No. 28.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March 3.*)

Rome, February 17, 1877.

(No. 52. Very Confidential.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that in an interview which I had yesterday with Signor Melegari, I repeated to his Excellency the substance of my conversation with Count Tornielli, on the subject of the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria, as reported in my despatch No. 40, Most Confidential, of the 13th instant.

Signor Melegari was evidently disturbed at Count Tornielli having again made this question the subject of a diplomatic conversation, the more particularly when he learnt, as I felt bound to tell him, that the Count's observations had been made for the express purpose of their being brought before Her Majesty's Government.

His Excellency said that, although what Count Tornielli had stated in reference to the consequences to Italy of an Austrian annexation if Bosnia and Herzegovina was in accordance with his own views, he regretted that any further reference should have been made to the subject at this moment. What he had at different times said to me, and also what he had stated to the Marquis of Salisbury, who had doubtless reported it, had already made Her Majesty's Government aware of the anxiety which he felt on the subject of the annexation in question. It was, his Excellency continued, his greatest wish to maintain the most friendly relations with Austria, and he should therefore deprecate anything being done which might be calculated to produce irritation on the part of that Government. The question, he said, had much better be now allowed to rest, and it was at his Excellency's request that I sent my telegram of yesterday evening, requesting that no notice might be taken of what had been said by Count Tornielli.

I told Signor Melegari that it was with sincere pleasure that I heard him express himself in this way, and that I could not too strongly encourage him to pursue a trustful policy towards Austria, instead of one which would reveal antagonism and suspicion.

I said that I thought this latter was much more likely to prove dangerous to Italy than the machinations (to which Count Tornielli had made allusion) of the Ultramontane party, should they ever succeed to power in Austria.

I then informed M. Melegari of a conversation I had had the previous evening at my own house with the Austrian Ambassador.

Baron Haymerle having asked what I knew of the policy of the Italian Government about the Trentino question, I had, I said, informed him that I had received, not only from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Count Tornielli, but also from the President of the Council, the most emphatic declarations that this question had never been mooted at all by the authority of the Italian Government, and that they deeply regretted that any

allusion should have been made to it last autumn in the public journals or elsewhere. I had, I added moreover, been distinctly assured that in no case would the Italian Government ever bring forward a claim for the cession of the Trentino.

Baron Haymerle, I informed Signor Melegari, had expressed the greatest satisfaction at this statement, which, in compliance with his request, I have authorized him to repeat to his Government, and had spoken strongly of the desire of the Emperor and the Cabinet of Vienna to maintain the most friendly relations with Italy. He had, he said, been specially charged with a message to this effect from the Emperor to the King, and had delivered it when he presented his credentials. The Baron added that he now considered the incident about the Trentino "comme vide."

Signor Melegari thanked me very much for what I had said to Baron Haymerle, and added that I had thereby rendered a service to the Italian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 29.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 3.)

(No. 19. Political. Confidential.)

Cettigné, February 20, 1877.

My Lord,

MM. PETROVICH and Radonich started this morning for Cattaro to take their passage on board the Lloyd's steamer for Corfu. They will hardly arrive at Constantinople before the conclusion of the armistice.

Their departure was announced to the Porte by a telegram of which the inclosed is a copy.

I have also the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copies of the letter of credence and of the full powers with which these gentlemen are intrusted, as well as of the instructions which the Prince has given them.

The Montenegrin demands include a larger territorial aggrandizement than that proposed by the Six Powers, with the addition of the port of Spizza; a complete amnesty for all the Herzegovinians now in Montenegro, supplemented by suggestions for their repatriation; and an understanding respecting the proposals of 1875, relating to a *modus vivendi*, and to the free navigation of the Lake of Scutari and of the River Boyana.

The nature of the instructions to be given to his Delegates has naturally upon several occasions formed the subject of conversation between the Prince and myself.

With regard to territorial changes it was perhaps hardly to be expected that His Highness should ask for less than the Plenipotentiaries of the Six Powers had recently proposed at Constantinople; nor that the much-desired seaport of Spizza should be ignored when the Prince's views came to be formulated. His Highness is not very sanguine that the Porte will concede much of what he asks. I cannot tell what is the minimum which he will accept, but I hardly think that he will make peace unless he obtains Nichsich.

With respect to the refugees, the Prince would wish to co-operate with the Turkish authorities in restoring them to their homes; and he says—and he begged me to repeat to your Lordship his words—that he guarantees to have all these unfortunates located and housed in forty days, if the Turks will enter into his views. If not, he is sure that neither those in Montenegro nor those in Dalmatia will ever return to the Herzegovina as long as the Turkish domination continues.

Your Lordship knows how settled is my opinion that the Porte would be wise to conciliate and content Montenegro; and I would desire to point out that, even if peace were now made with the Principality, the Herzegovina would revert to its previous unsatisfactory condition unless the co-operation of Prince Nicholas be secured for its pacification. I have had a very interesting confidential conversation with His Highness upon the state of affairs in Dalmatia, and in the other Slav provinces of Austria-Hungary, the details of which I do not care to confide to the post. In dealing with this subject the Prince displayed much caution and reticence; but I gathered enough from what he said to show me that, in spite of all the disclaimers made by Austro-Hungarian officials, the views I have persistently expressed in my reports to your Lordship as to outside complicity in the events of the last eighteen months are shared by His Highness; and that but little is wanted in the way of management so to precipitate the future action of instruments which are ready for use as to drive the Cabinet of Vienna into adopting a policy very repugnant to the known predilections of the present Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 29.

The Prince of Montenegro to the Grand Vizier.

(Télégraphique.) *Cettigné, le 20 Février*, 1877.

EN exécution de la décision que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous annoncer par ma dépêche du $\frac{14}{18}$ courant, je viens informer votre Altesse que mes Délégués, son Excellence le Voivode Bogidar Petrovich, Président du Sénat, et le Voivode Stanko Radonich, Sénateur, partent par le bateau de ce jour de Cattaro, se rendant à Constantinople par la voie de Corfou.

Inclosure 2 in No. 29.

The Prince of Montenegro to Edhem Pasha.

Altesse, *Cettigné, le $\frac{7}{19}$ Février*, 1877.

EN exécution de la décision que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous annoncer par le télégraphe et dans le but de traiter avec le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan pour le rétablissement de la paix, j'ai résolu d'envoyer deux délégués au siége du Gouvernement Impérial. J'ai choisi, pour cette honorable mission, son Excellence M. le Voivode Bogidar Petrovich, Président du Sénat, et M. le Voivode Stanko Radonich, Sénateur, et Chef de ma Chancellerie pour les Affaires Etrangères, et je leur remets les pleins pouvoirs nécessaires. La connaissance que j'ai de leur capacité, et de leur dévouement, me donne la certitude qu'ils ne négligeront rien pour amener à un heureux résultat les négociations dont je les charge.

Je prie votre Altesse de vouloir bien donner une entière créance à ce que mes délégués lui diront de ma part, et, en particulier, au sincère désir qu'ils lui exprimeront en mon nom de voir les relations entre la Sublime Porte et le Monténégro établies sur un pied qui promette de longues années de paix et de bons rapports.

Je saisis, &c.
(Signé) NICOLAS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 29.

Full Powers to MM. Petrovich and Radonich.

NOUS, Nicolas I, par la grâce de Dieu, Prince de Monténégro et de Berda,

Savoir faisons:

Que, afin de terminer tous différends entre nous et l'Empire Ottoman, de rétablir une harmonie parfaite et les relations de commerce et d'amitié entre les deux pays; nous avons trouvé bon de charger de ce soin deux personnes jouissant de notre confiance. En conséquence nous avons nommé et commissionné son Excellence le Voivode Bogidar Petrovich, Président de notre Sénat, et le Voivode Stanko Radonich, Sénateur, et Chef de notre Chancellerie pour les Affaires Etrangères, conjointement et séparément, nos Envoyés Extraordinaires et Plénipotentiaires auprès du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, les autorisant à conférer avec les Ministres, Commissaires, ou Délégués de Sa Majesté Impériale, munis de pleins pouvoirs, à négocier avec eux au sujet de toutes les causes de différends existant entre l'Empire et la Principauté, afin d'y mettre fin d'une manière juste et durable, ainsiqu'à conclure et signer tout Traité et Convention à cet effet, en nous les transmettant pour notre ratification finale.

Donné à Cettigné le sept (dix-neuf) Février, mil huit cent soixante-dix-sept, sous notre sceau et notre signature.

(Signé) NICOLAS.

Inclosure 4 in No. 29.

Instructions to MM. Petrovich and Radonich.

Messieurs,

EN vous chargeant de me représenter dans les négociations avec la Sublime Porte pour le rétablissement de la paix, je tiens particulièrement à vous recommander de ne rien

épargner pour convaincre les délégués de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan de ma ferme résolution de vivre avec la Turquie dans les rapports les plus cordiaux, quand nous aurons conclu une paix qui donnera au Monténégro la possibilité de vivre et de travailler à son développement en toute sécurité. Quand le Monténégro se sentira affranchi de toute crainte du côté de dehors, et possèdera la pleine liberté de ses communications intérieures et extérieures, il sera trop heureux de se livrer entièrement au travail. Pour celà il ne faut pas que ses frontières restent tout ouvertes, et que les communications les plus essentielles soient à la merci de ses voisins; si bien disposés que soient ces derniers. Je ne doute pas que vous réussissiez à persuader les Ministres de Sa Majesté Impériale de la stabilité d'une paix conclue sur de semblables bases. Vous pourrez même leur faire remarquer que, en consentant à renoncer au choix de Vienne, ou au moins de Cattaro, comme lieu de première réunion de nos délégués, malgré les avantages évidents que j'y trouvais, j'ai donné une première preuve, non-seulement de mes dispositions conciliantes, mais de ma confiance dans les assurances de la Sublime Porte, qui saura certainement de son côté montrer son bon vouloir d'une manière efficace.

Vous aurez grand soin, j'en suis certain, de vous tenir en droite communion d'idées et en communauté d'action avec les Envoyés de mon allié, le Prince de Serbie. Outre le devoir de rester fidèle à nos engagements, nous ne devons pas perdre de vue que l'union des deux Principautés est une condition essentielle de succès pour leurs négociations, non-seulement pour les objets d'un commun intérêt, mais aussi pour ceux qui concernent chacune d'elles individuellement.

Il me semble hors de doute que la Sublime Porte accordera une amnistie pleine et entière pour les faits de l'insurrection; mais cela ne doit pas vous empêcher d'attacher la plus grande importance à la manière dont se règlera le repatriement des Herzégoviniens. J'ai dans mes Etats la majorité de cette population—100,000 âmes à peu près; je ne peux naturellement pas les renvoyer chez eux sans être bien assuré qu'ils pourront y vivre. Je suis bien convaincu de l'humanité et de la prévoyance avec lesquelles le Gouvernement Ottoman prendra ses mesures; mais, comme je suis en état de l'aider moralement et matériellement, je ne crois pas qu'il trouve d'objection à s'entendre avec moi, pour assurer le mieux possible une existence satisfaisante à ces malheureux à leur retour chez eux. Offrez en mon nom une assistance active pour le transport des familles et des effets, pour la réconstruction des bâtiments, et la mise en culture des terres; proposez même de céder du bétail. Le sort des Herzégoviniens est pour nous une considération tellement majeure, que vous devrez, avant de rien signer, me faire connaître exactement les conditions dans lesquelles se ferait leur rentrée dans leurs foyers.

Quant à la grave question de la configuration des frontières vous demanderez la cession au Monténégro des territoires suivants:—

Du côté de l'Albanie:

Les pays des Kutchis, Drohalovichi, et Krajni, et celui des Vassoïvichis, de la Sievna au Lim; la rive droite de la Moratcha, à partir de son confluent avec la Zeta jusqu'au Lac de Scutari, y compris les places fortifiées de Spuz et Zabliak, avec leurs dépendances; les îles de Lesendra, Vranina, et Gromozone; enfin le district et le port de Spizza.

Du côté de l'Herzégovine:

Les districts de Zubci et Baniani; la partie sud de celui de Gatzko jusqu'à Lipnik; ceux de Piva et Drobniak; la partie du territoire de Scharanzi située sur la rive droite de la Tara; enfin, le district supérieur de Kolàchin, jusqu'à Moikovatz.

Vous pouvez prendre en mon nom l'engagement que la population Musulmane restera libre d'émigrer ou de demeurer en toute sécurité dans les districts cédés.

En formulant cette demande de cession territoriale vous pourrez appuyer sur l'entière inutilité pour la Turquie de ces territoires, dont les habitants sont presque exclusivement de nationalité Monténégrine, et qui ne représentent pour la Sublime Porte que des sacrifices et des embarras constants.

Si le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Impériale répugne à la cession des forteresses à cause des dépenses qu'il y a faites, je vous autorise de dire que, bien que ces dépenses probablement fort exagérées en comparaison du résultat obtenu, aient été faites contre moi, je ne me refuserai probablement pas à en prendre à ma charge une certaine partie, et vous pourrez offrir le paiement en dix ou douze annuités d'une somme que je me réserve de fixer.

Il doit être bien entendu que vous ne ferez cette proposition que si vous vous trouvez en face d'une dernière difficulté à lever.

Dans les bases de négociations énumérées dans l'échange de télégrammes entre le Grand Vizir et moi, il me fait mention de mes propositions du $\frac{31 \text{ Juin}}{9 \text{ Juillet}}$, 1875, qui, comme vous le savez, se rapportent à la conclusion d'un mode de vivre pour les rapports journaliers entre les ressortissants et les autorités des deux pays. Ceci ne fait pas nécessaire-

ment partie intégrale au Traité de Paix; mais peut faire l'objet d'une Convention annexée au Traité, et visée par un Article de celui-ci. Il y a même pour la prompte conclusion des négociations avantage à ce que ces points de détail soient réglés à part, par des délégués spéciaux, soit à Constantinople ou Cettigné, soit à Scutari ou Raguse. Si l'on se décide en faveur de ce mode de procéder, le Traité proprement dit devra contenir un Article formel stipulant, outre la liberté absolue de la navigation sur le lac et la Boiana, pour les embarcations et les sujets du Monténégro sous le pavillon national, l'ouverture et l'entretien régulier du chénal navigable dans la rivière, par les soins du Gouvernement Ottoman. Vous pouvez dire, à cette occasion, que je serai toujours disposé à me joindre, le cas échéant, à des mesures d'ensemble destinées à améliorer le régime des eaux.

(Signé) NICOLAS.

Cettigné, le $\frac{7}{19}$ Février, 1877.

No. 30.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 3.)

(No. 63.)

My Lord, *Rome, February 27*, 1877.

I LOST no time, after the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 26th instant, in calling upon M. Melegari and acquainting him with the instructions which your Lordship has addressed to Her Majesty's Consul at Scutari, and to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, relative to the critical state of affairs amongst the Mirdite population.

M. Melegari informed me that he had likewise desired the Italian Consul at Scutari, and the Italian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, to urge a conciliatory course of proceeding in dealing with these affairs.

His Excellency, however, seemed to wish it to be understood that, having withdrawn the Italian Minister at Constantinople, and having thus broken off, so to say, political relations with the Porte, the Italian Government did not think it right to desire their Chargé d'Affaires to make any formal communication to the Turkish Government upon political affairs, and consequently the instructions sent to M. Cavagna only authorized him to take an opportunity of speaking upon these matters, "selon la réserve qui nous est imposée par la position diplomatique dans laquelle nous nous trouvons."

In the same manner I understand the Italian Chargé d'Affaires to have been instructed to urge upon the Turkish Ministers the wisdom of their giving effect to the principal measures proposed by the Conference, so as to prevent the occurrence of greater complications.

Your Lordship's further telegram of yesterday's date, desiring me to acquaint the Italian Government with the substance of Mr. Consul Green's telegram respecting his communication with the Turkish Commander-in-chief and his Austrian, French, and Italian colleagues, and to express the hope that the Italian Consul might be instructed to join his English colleague in recommending conciliation, was only decyphered and delivered to me on my arrival at the Chancery to-day, just after having seen M. Melegari.

I immediately, therefore, addressed a note, a copy of which is herewith inclosed, to M. Melegari, giving effect to your Lordship's instructions, and in order to save time in translating, as his Excellency is not well acquainted with English, I wrote it in French, giving it a semi-official form.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 30.

Sir A. Paget to Signor Melegari.

(Urgente.)

Mon cher Ministre, *Rome, le 27 Février*, 1877.

ARRIVÉ à la Chancellerie je trouve un télégramme de Lord Derby dont voici la substance.

Le Consul de Sa Majesté à Scutari annonce qu'ayant appris que la conduite des affaires Mirdites s'était passée aux mains des autorités militaires, il avait engagé le Commandeur-en-chef d'agir d'une manière conciliante. Le Commandeur-en-chef a

montré au Consul des lettres qu'il était au moment d'expédier à Bib Doda et aux autres Chefs dans lesquelles il les sommait de retenir à leur allégiance en leur accordant deux jours pour reflêchir, et leur promettant avantages ultérieurs en cas d'obéissance.

Le Consul ajoute que s'étant adressé à ses collègues d'Autriche, de France, et d'Italie pour les engager à écrire à Bib Doda en même temps que lui-même pour le pousser à prendre la communication du Commandeur-en-chef en sérieuse considération, le Consul Français a répondu que ses instructions ne le permettaient pas de faire une pareille démarche, tandis que les deux autres ont dit qu'ils ne bougeraient pas sans une invitation formelle de la part du Commandeur-en-chef.

Notre Consul craint donc que ses efforts isolés ne produisent pas le résultat désiré, et dans deux jours les opérations contre les Mirdites doivent commencer. 4,600 troupes regulières se trouvent déjà sur les confins de la Miridicie.

En vous faisant part de ces renseignements, Lord Derby me charge d'exprimer l'espoir que le Représentant de l'Italie soit autorisé à agir d'accord avec son collègue d'Angleterre en recommandant la conciliation.

J'ai lieu de croire qu'une demande semblable aura été adressé aux Cabinets de Paris et de Vienne.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. PAGET.

No. 31.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 3.)

(No. 156.)
My Lord, *Paris, March 2, 1877.*

THE Duc Decazes mentioned to me this morning that a communication had been made to him, on the part of Prince Gortchakow, to the effect that, General Ignatiew being obliged to go abroad to consult an oculist, advantage had been taken of the opportunity to instruct him to give to the several Governments at Berlin, Vienna, Paris, and London, explanations which would very much facilitate their answers to the Russian Circular of the $\frac{19th}{31st}$ January.

The Duc Decazes observed that this communication from Prince Gortchakow appeared to show that the Russian Government were willing to wait for the answers to the Circular until General Ignatiew had fulfilled his mission in the several capitals.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 32.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 3.)

(No. 157.)
My Lord, *Paris, March 2, 1877.*

THE Duc Decazes told me this morning that he had received information from Rome that the Italian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople had reported to his Government that the Porte intended, as soon as it had concluded peace with Servia and Montenegro, to ask Russia for explanations as to the army she had collected on the Pruth, and to propose that the two countries should simultaneously disarm.

The Duc Decazes said that a summons of this kind, which was in fact almost equivalent to a declaration of war, seemed to be entirely inconsistent with the sentiments which, according to the reports which he received from his own agents, now prevailed at Constantinople. He had, therefore, not attached much importance at first, but now, as the Italian Ambassador here has again pressed it upon his attention, he had telegraphed to the French Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to inquire.

The Duc Decazes said that if there was any foundation at all for this rumour, it must, he thought, be connected with another report that the Sultan was about to send a special Envoy to make a direct appeal to the Emperor Alexander, and try to come to an understanding with His Majesty. If the Sultan succeeded in this way in satisfying the Emperor, a mutual disarmament would be a natural consequence, and the proposal would no longer have any offensive character.

I told the Duke that the intelligence that the Porte intended to call upon Russia to

disarm had also reached Her Majesty's Government from Rome, but not, that I knew of, from any other quarter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 33.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 3.)

(No. 158.)
My Lord, *Paris, March 2, 1877.*

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 145 and 146 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Duc Decazes told me this morning that the troubles in Mirdicia had been appeased.

I told him that intelligence had reached Her Majesty's Government from Vienna that the difficulty had been got over, for the time, by the release of the Mirdite Delegates who had been imprisoned by the Turks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 34.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, March 3.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 1 Mars, 1877.*

LES Délégués Serviens ont remis à la Sublime Porte une note contenant des explications satisfaisantes sur les garanties morales que nous avions demandées pour le rétablissement de la paix. L'accord s'étant ainsi établi conformément à cette note explicative, un Acte a été signé hier sur les bases suivantes:—

1. Rétablissement du *statu quo ante*.

2. Amnistie pleine et entière à tous les individus compromis dans les derniers événements, et

3. Evacuation dans le délai de 12 jours, à partir d'hier, du territoire occupé par les troupes Impériales et les troupes Serviennes.

Je vous enverrai bientôt les documents relatifs à cette entente.

No. 35.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Monson.

(No. 6.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 3, 1877.*

I APPROVE the language held by you to the Prince of Montenegro in expressing your opinion as to the policy which, in his own interests, he should pursue towards the Porte, as reported in your despatch No. 18 of the 18th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 36.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.**

(No. 53.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, March 3, 1877.*

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me to-day, and said that he was authorized by his Government to request Her Majesty's Government to delay their reply to Prince Gortchakow's Circular of the 19th of January until they received certain further explanations which the Russian Government had to offer.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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* Telegraphed on March 5.

No. 37.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 3.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 3, 1877.*

GENERAL IGNATIEW left this yesterday for London, ostensibly to consult an oculist.

No. 38.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 3, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 3, 1877, 5:30 P.M.*

GRAND VIZIER has assured me that Porte had never intended summoning Russia to disarm, nor would it ever entertain such an idea.

With regard to the disarmament of Turkey, his Highness said that no resolution whatever had yet been taken by the Porte, but considering the enormous expenditure actually incurred, it would certainly be necessary to place the army on a peace footing after the conclusion of peace.

His Highness would gladly be guided by the views of Her Majesty's Government in regard to the future policy of Turkey.

No. 39.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 5. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, February 21, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that rewards have been offered by the provincial authorities, as per inclosed translated extract of the "Notification" published in the "Selanik Gazette" of the $\frac{5}{17}$th instant, for any information that may be given as will lead to the discovery and apprehension of the criminals Ismail Agha, Adil Agha, Deli Mehmed and his son, Mola Ali, and Ali of Terkova, implicated in the late massacres in the province of Philippopolis.

The notification in question has been sent to all the district Governors in the Vilayet of Salonica.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 39.

Notification offering Rewards for the Apprehension of Criminals implicated in Atrocities in Bulgaria.

(Extrait.)

(Traduction.)

1. 5,000 Piastres pour la capture d'Ismail Agha de Ropsos.

Il a commis à la tête des Bashi-Bozouks des actes de violence dans le village de Bokova et il l'a incendié.

2. 5,000 piastres pour la capture d'Adil Agha.

Il a assisté son frère, le susdit Ismail Agha, à commettre des actes de violence, et à incendier le village de Bokova.

3. 5,000 piastres pour la capture de Deli Mehmed, de Ropsios.

Il a pillé le village de Tove, et a tué des habitants du même village.

4. 5,000 piastres pour la capture de Mola Ali.

Il a commis divers méfaits dans le village de Batak.

5. 5,000 piastres pour la capture d'Ali de Tekova.

Il a commis des méfaits à Batak.

6. 3,000 piastres pour la capture de Hassan, fils de Deli Mehmed.

Il a assisté son père dans le pillage du village Tove.

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* First paragraph repeated to Embassies.

No. 40.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 6. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, February 21, 1877.*

WITH reference to my report dated Constantinople, December 16, 1876, to Sir Henry Elliot, relative to the efforts of the Pasha of Salonica to recover and restore to their homes the women and children who have been carried away from Batak and brought to Nevrocop and other districts in this vilayet, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the Governors of Serres and Drama have both been recalled by the Porte in consequence of the complaints the Pasha addressed against them to the Grand Vizier for not properly assisting him in this matter.

Djellaleddin Bey has been appointed Governor of Drama, and Mustapha Effendi Governor of Serres.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 41.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 7. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, February 22, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copies of a correspondence relative to the appearance of two bands of robbers, believed to be Greeks, in districts of Catterina and Veria, on this side of Mount Olympus, and to the intention of the local Medjliss to employ Bashi-Bazouks in pursuit of these robbers.

The correspondence includes the translations of two telegrams, one addressed by the Pasha of Salonica to the local Council, and the other received by him from the Minister of the Interior.

Intelligence reached here this morning that the brigands have left the districts of Catterina and Veria, retiring towards Allassona, in the Vilayet of Janina.

The Pasha returned here last night from the interior, and I have the satisfaction to report that he is determined not to employ Bashi-Bazouks, as proposed by his Council.

It is worthy of notice that the "Mufti," the chief Mahommedan ecclesiastical authority here, strongly approved and supported the remonstrances which Yenidounia Effendi, Director of Political Affairs (Christian) addressed to the local Council against the employment of irregular troops for police purposes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

P.S.—Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney, in a recent letter from Prevesa, reports that a band of brigands, six in number, has turned up close to Caranossara, frontier of Greece, under the leadership of Tsokos, said to be a brother of Takos Arvanitaki, and that Greek detachments of police along the frontier are on the look-out for them.

J. E. B.

Inclosure 1 in No. 41.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.)

(Extract.) *Salonica, February 19, 1877, 11 A.M.*

REPORTS appearance of two bands of robbers in Catterina and Veria districts; and intention of Salonica authorities to enrol and send in pursuit fifty Bashi-Bazouks. He suggests that Porte should prevent this measure, and call out instead 100 Redifs for this special service.

Inclosure 2 in No. 41.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.)
(Extract.) *Salonica, February* 20, 1877, 8 P.M.

BEGS to be informed if orders have been sent by the Porte not to enrol Bashi-Bazouks.

Inclosure 3 in No. 41.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Jocelyn.

Sir, *Salonica, February* 19, 1877.

WITH reference to my ciphered telegram of this date reporting the sudden appearance of two bands of brigands, believed to be Greeks, in districts of Catterina and Veria, on this side of Mount Olympus, and the intention of the local authorities to employ Bashi-Bazouks in pursuit of these bands, I hasten to report that it would be most injudicious and dangerous to permit the authorities to resort to the services of these irregulars, or Circassians (of whom there is a large village at Catterina) for police purposes in Macedonia; and to express the hope that the Porte will despatch peremptory orders in the above sense to the Acting Governor-General of Salonica.

It is not yet certain if the appearance of the above bands is in any way connected with a political movement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 41.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.)
(Extract.) *Salonica, February* 21, 1877, 11 A.M.

REPORTS that Governor-General of Salonica has telegraphed to local Council not to resort to services of Bashi-Bazouks without Porte's permission.

Inclosure 5 in No. 41.

The Governor-General of Salonica to the Acting Governor at Salonica.

(Telegraphic.)
(Extract.)
(Translation.) *Perlepé, February* 19, 1877.

I HAVE received your telegram, and approve of the measures you propose for pursuit of brigands at Catterina and Veria, excepting that of employing Bashi-Bazouks, which must not be carried out till I hear from the Porte on the subject.

Besides despatching separate detachments of police against these bands, and employing secret emissaries and means, offer rewards for any information likely to lead to their discovery or capture.

Inclosure 6 in No. 41.

Mr. Jocelyn to Consul Blunt.

(Telegraphic.)
(Extract.) *Pera, February* 21, 1877, 11 A.M.

INFORMS Consul Blunt that Porte has sent orders not to employ irregular troops, and instructs him to report what is done in the matter.

Inclosure 7 in No. 41.

The Minister of the Interior to the Governor-General of Salonica.

(Telegraphic.)
(Extract.) *Sublime Porte, February* 20, 1877.

THE resorting to Bashi-Bazouks will do more harm than good, and you must not employ their services. The police of the vilayet should be employed; and you have done well to dispatch the Alai Bey with gendarmes in pursuit of the brigands at Catterina and Veria. Should he need support, form and send to him a picked body of men, to be composed of three or four policemen from each of the neighbouring districts.

Inclosure 8 in No. 41.

Consul Blunt to Vice-Consul Suter.

Sir, *Salonica, February* 21, 1877.

I HAVE to request you to report to me by telegraph immediately you hear of any intention on the part of local authorities to resort to the services of Bashi-Bazouks or Circassians, for police purposes in your district.

The same as above was sent to the British Vice-Consuls at Cavalla and Prevesa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 9 in No. 41.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Cummings.

Sir, *Salonica, February* 21, 1877.

THE authorities have received intelligence that two formidable bands of robbers have made their appearance in districts of Veria and Catterina, on this side of Mount Olympus. They are taking, I believe, some special measures against these bands, and as I hear you are about to return to Tricovista,* you will, I trust, excuse my recommending you not to expose yourself in the hills.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 42.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 66.)
My Lord, *Rome, February* 28, 1877.

COUNT TORNIELLI informed me last evening, at a party at our house, that the Italian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople had telegraphed that he believed it was the intention of the Porte, on peace being concluded with Servia and Montenegro, to summon Russia to disarm, or to propose to the Russian Government a simultaneous disarmament by Russia and Turkey.

The Turkish Minister being present, I inquired of him if he had heard anything of this insane intention, and he replied that he had seen a report of it in the papers, but that he had no knowledge of its existence on the part of his Government, and he did not believe in it.

I told Essad Bey that I trusted he was correct in his belief; for that, of course, any such demand or proposal addressed to the Russian Government would be considered as a further provocation, and would probably be answered by a Russian invasion of Turkey.

What the Turkish Government ought to do, I said, was to give effect to the measures proposed by the Conference; for if they did not, they might rest assured that the result would be a war with Russia, in which Turkey would be unassisted by any Power whatever. Turkey, I said, might possibly be reckoning on the jealousies which might be

* "Tricovista," a farm in the district of Veria, owned by Mr. J. C. Cummings and Captain Lynge, British subjects.

created by a Russian invasion; upon the European complications which such an event might be likely to produce; and, ultimately, upon the intervention of England. I ventured to think, I continued, that if such was the case, the Turkish Government was counting upon what was never likely to be of the smallest advantage to Turkey. European complications there might be; but if there was one thing more certain than another, it was that these complications would never be of the slightest benefit to Turkey; and should the force of circumstances ever oblige England to intervene, she would do so, not for the interests of Turkey, but for those of Great Britain.

If, I said, he had studied the debates in Parliament and the tone of public opinion in England, he ought to be convinced of the truth of what I now told him. Therefore, unless the Turkish Government were of opinion that Turkey was able to defeat the whole power of Russia, they should at once take measures to prevent that Power being turned against her. If they did not, I considered, for my own part, that the end of the Turkish Empire in Europe was at hand.

I added, that I need hardly tell him that I had no instructions to speak to him on these matters; but that I did so because I knew that what I said was in conformity with the feelings in my own country and with that in other countries.

Essad Bey objected that until peace with Servia and Montenegro was concluded it was impossible for his Government to proceed with any measures of reform, &c., but that they had every intention to do their utmost to give satisfaction to the Powers. I said I made allowances for the difficulties of doing some things until peace with the Principalities was assured, but this seemed now to be settled, and in any case there were other things which might have been done while the negotiations were going on. Why, I inquired, were not Tossoun Pasha, Achmet Agha, and Shefket Pasha, who had been condemned by the Commission on the clearest evidence of their guilt, not executed? It was, I said, as if the Turkish Government were determined to arouse still further the indignation of Europe against themselves by deliberate insult and mockery. Essad Bey replied that perhaps it was not true that they had been condemned, or, if condemned, not executed—he had only seen it in the papers; he had no official knowledge on the subject.

I replied that I had; and that I could tell him that Mr. Baring had been recalled from Philippopolis in consequence of this failure of justice. As for what the Turkish Government "intended" to do, I begged leave to say that we had heard enough of good intentions, and that if the Turkish Government wished to avoid the calamities I had referred to, they must now give us facts, and not promises. Europe, I said, was tired of the latter, and he might be certain that unless his Government acted seriously and at once a dreadful misfortune was impending over his country, and that there was not one State in Europe who would put out—I would not say a hand—but not even a little finger, to save it.

I made no apology, I said, for speaking thus frankly; he might take my observations for what they were worth; but if he intended to make use of them, I could not too strongly urge him to press upon his Government the absolute necessity of acting speedily.

Essad Bey replied that he should certainly report what I had said to his Government.

I may add that I took an opportunity of speaking to the President of the Council in the sense of the above observations with the view to inducing him to get instructions sent to the Italian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, to urge the Porte to adopt at once the measures which may be necessary to give a certain amount of satisfaction to the demands of Europe.

The peace of Europe, I said, was at stake, and it was certainly not a moment for considering whether it would be according to diplomatic rule to continue to interfere in political matters when the relations had been, to a certain extent, interrupted by the withdrawal of the Minister. If the Italian Government wished peace to be maintained, they ought to press the Turkish Government by every means in their power to do what is necessary to make its maintenance possible.

M. Depretis said that he entirely agreed with me, and that he would speak to the Minister for Foreign Affairs in this sense.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 43.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 68.)
My Lord, *Rome, March 1, 1877.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 63 of the 27th of February, inclosing copy of a note which I had addressed to M. Melegari requesting that the Italian Consul at Scutari might be instructed to join his English colleague in recommending prudence and conciliation in regard to the Mirdite affairs, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Melegari told me last evening that he had sent telegraphic instructions to the Italian Consul in the sense desired by your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 44.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 4.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, March 3, 1877.*

WHILE the authorities here state that they have now decided not to attack the Mirdites, they have ordered all the market towns to be closed to them. This may lead to reprisals.

No. 45.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 4, 12·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 4, 1877, 10·55 A.M.*

FOLLOWING received from Vice-Consul at Prevesa, dated yesterday:—

"Consular Agent at Janina informs me of existence of plan to revolutionize Epirus, to break out first in Chimara district, and then in Radowitiz, Fournegona, and Sullilaw."

No. 46.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 4, 1877.*

FOLLOWING from Monson, dated yesterday:—

"To Lord Derby:

"Montenegrin delegates telegraph that they have been very civilly received by the Grand Vizier and the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs. The negotiations will formally begin on the 5th instant.

"Prince Milan having telegraphed insisting on the necessity of Prince Nicholas' assent, His Highness answers that he leaves the situation to the appreciation of his ally."

No. 47.

Consul Barker to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 5.)

(No. 4. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, February 13, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship the arrival here of his Excellency Mouhktar Pasha, to take charge of the Governor-Generalship of this island until the arrival of Samih Pasha from Erzeroum; and immediately on his arrival Réouf Pasha left for Constantinople.

* Repeated to Paris, Rome, and Constantinople.

A few days before Réouf Pasha's departure he received by telegraph a Circular from the Grand Vizierate informing him "of the departure of the Plenipotentiaries and Ambassadors from Constantinople; but that this event, which is a temporary phase in the diplomatic situation, does not interfere with the political relations subsisting between the European Powers and the Imperial Government, and his Excellency is invited to continue to maintain as before the most friendly and sincere relations with their Consuls and their subjects, and to take care that nothing irregular or improper shall happen."

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

No. 48.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 5.)

(No. 76. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February 20, 1877.*

AT an interview with Prince Gortchakow yesterday his Highness informed with apparent satisfaction that the peace negotiations between the Porte, Servia, and Montenegro were progressing favourably, and his Highness appeared to entertain no doubts as their successful issue.

I stated to his Highness that he had probably received information by telegraph of the verbal communication your Lordship had made to Count Schouvaloff on the 15th instant, in regard to the reply of Her Majesty's Government to his Circular despatch; but I thought it desirable that his Highness should be made acquainted with the terms in which that communication had been made. I accordingly read to him your Lordship's telegram to me of the 15th instant in a transposed form, but in your Lordship's words.

Prince Gortchakow made no direct observation in reply, but appeared to view the postponement of an answer to his Circular with regret. He said that the present position of affairs was extremely prejudicial to Russia; that the mobilization of the army cost 13,000,000 monthly; and that a prolonged delay in ascertaining the decision of the European Powers imposed on Russia a costly sacrifice.

His Highness seemed further much disconcerted by the report he had received of the debate in the House of Commons on Friday night on Mr. Gladstone's interpellation, observing that if Turkey could feel secure from any coercive measures, the influence of Europe would be paralyzed.

I observed to his Highness that he must admit that any precipitate action on the part of Europe would be most unwise and ill-judged at this moment. If, I remarked, peace was happily concluded between the Porte, Servia, and Montenegro, one of the objects of the European Conference was attained. In regard to the question of reforms, it could not be expected that the Porte could put them into execution in twenty-four hours. The greater portion of the reforms recommended by the Conference had been accepted by the Porte, and harmonized with the Constitution which had been proclaimed.

It was reasonable, therefore, for Europe to grant a certain respite to the Porte to enable it to prove its sincerity in the assurances given. A period of twelve months would enable the Porte to give evidence of its determination to carry out the proposed reforms.

Prince Gortchakow replied that Russia could not wait for twelve, or even six months, with the military cost she was now incurring. The reforms, he observed, could be perfectly inaugurated within two months.

In regard to the expense of the mobilized army, I remarked that, if a term of twelve months was granted to the Porte, a demobilization might take place, and at a period of the year when it would be most important for the agricultural interests.

To this observation Prince Gortchakow replied that this was an internal question which he could not discuss with me.

His Highness stated that he would not say what course Russia would take, but gave me to understand that her present position could not be indefinitely prolonged.

His Highness spoke vaguely, and was evidently under the influence of disappointment caused by the intelligence he had received from London. He hinted mysteriously at the possibility of Russia withdrawing altogether from the European concert, and of resuming her complete liberty of action.

In reply to my inquiry as to whether he had received any communications from Berlin and Vienna, his Highness stated that he had received the most satisfactory assurances from Prince Bismarck, and that he had the fullest confidence in the friendly

attitude of Germany, observing that Prussia would hold to her traditional policy towards Russia.

He said that he had received no answer from Austria, but was daily expecting a messenger from Vienna.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 49.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 5.)

(No. 80. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February 22, 1877.*

I HAVE been confidentially told by a person generally well informed and in a high position, that a society of bankers at Amsterdam have offered to the Russian Minister of Finance, through the agency of a Prussian banker, a loan of 500,000,000 roubles in gold on very advantageous terms. I am inclined to think that the sum may be exaggerated, and that it may have been in francs and not in roubles.

My informant stated that the offer has been declined by the Imperial Government, and this refusal is interpreted as indicating a policy of peace.

I have also learnt from the same source that a Council of Ministers will be held on Saturday next under the immediate presidency of the Emperor, when the course to be taken by Russia under present circumstances will be discussed, and the question as to peace or war will be decided. If the decision should be in favour of peace, which I am informed is the firm intention of the Emperor, the demobilization of the Russian army will be immediately ordered.

My informant further stated that the retirement of Prince Gortchakow from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs is fully decided on, and that his Highness will be succeeded by Count Adlerberg, now Minister of the Imperial Household.

It is, however, uncertain whether the change will take place immediately, or whether it will be deferred till the period when Prince Gortchakow usually repairs to Germany for the benefit of his health.

Count Baranow, now assistant to Count Adlerberg, is spoken of as his successor in the Imperial Household.

I am told that the change does not imply any intention on the part of the Emperor of withdrawing from the European concert.

I have thought it right to forward to your Lordship this information by telegraph, having full confidence in the person from whom I received it, but with the difficulty here of ascertaining truth, your Lordship will understand that I cannot guarantee its authenticity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 50.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 5.)

(No. 88. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February 28, 1877.*

WHEN I was with Prince Gortchakoff yesterday, his Highness took occasion to observe that there were all sorts of wild reports in circulation of decisions having been taken at an Extraordinary Council of Ministers under the Presidency of the Emperor in favour of peace, and that even the order for demobilization had been signed.

There was no truth in these reports. No decision, said his Highness, as to peace or war has been taken, nor can it be taken until the result of the peace negotiations between Turkey, Servia, and Montenegro is known.

These reports, as also others concerning the state of the Russian army on the southern frontier were, his Highness observed, calculated to create a false impression, and, if reported to Constantinople, might excite the Porte to continued resistance to the European counsels.

His Highness said that the military report given in the day before to the Emperor

stated that the Russian active army in the South amounted to 400,000 men, ready to enter on a campaign. There were, he said, 300,000 men in Bessarabia, Odessa, and the Crimea, and 100,000 men on the frontier of Asia.

His Highness did not mention this in a spirit of military boasting or of warlike menace, but evidently with the desire that it should be repeated to the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, in order that he should not be led astray and report to his Government that Russia was unprepared for war, and was determined to adopt a policy of peace at any price.

I found Prince Gortchakow very desirous for peace, and it appeared to me that he counts on the efforts of Her Majesty's Government to induce the Porte to take the necessary steps which may conduce to it.

I venture to suggest, as a means of aiding Russia to withdraw from her advanced position, and to place herself in line with the other Powers, that the Porte, in notifying the conclusion of peace with Servia and Montenegro (which appears to be certain), should profit of this opportunity to announce its intention to accept and carry out the reforms (or the greater portion of them) recommended by the Conference, stating those which had already been put into practical execution.

The Porte, at the same time, might announce to the Powers that, peace having been happily concluded, and being in amity with all Powers, it intended to reduce its army to the peace establishment, or to that degree of strength necessary for the maintenance of internal order and tranquillity, without, however, any reference whatever to Russia or the Russian armaments.

I may here observe that any reference to Russia or to a reciprocal demobilization of the Russian army would be productive of evil results, and, in lieu of aiding to avert war, would render it more probable. It would be viewed by Russia as a "sommation," and would consequently defeat the pacific object, for the attainment of which the suggestion is made.

My belief is, that if the suggestion which I have now ventured to submit should be utilized by the Porte, it would conduce immediately to a demobilization of the Russian army and to the resumption of a peaceful attitude.

It is further for the interests of the Porte to adopt this course.

Since the breaking up of the Conference, the Porte may be said to be in a somewhat isolated position and outside of the European concert.

The opportunity afforded to the Porte by the conclusion of peace with Servia and Montenegro—an opportunity which may not easily occur again—should be profited of to enable it to resume its position, and to regain the confidence and good-will of the European Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 51.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 5.)

(No. 90. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February 28, 1877.*

I HAD a conversation on Sunday last with an influential member of the Government on the present state of the Eastern question.

He confirmed to me the intelligence I had reported to your Lordship, of a Ministerial Council having been held on the previous day, under the presidency of the Emperor, but at which, he said, although the tone and spirit was most pacific, no positive decision had been taken as to the question of peace or war, or as to an order being issued for demobilization.

He stated that this decision was deferred until further information was received from London, and until peace was definitively concluded between Turkey, Servia, and Montenegro.

My informant observed that however anxious the Emperor was for peace, there was always the question of military honour, and satisfaction to the national feeling to be taken into account, and which the Emperor could not lightly disregard.

He seemed to think that the question of peace or war was still in the balance, although personally his hopes and convictions led him to anticipate a pacific solution.

He hinted to me that there was an evident wish on the part of the Imperial Government that the initiative of the arrangement to be made should come from England, observing

that if England and Russia were agreed, the other Powers would join in support of the arrangement agreed upon.

He alluded especially to Austria and Germany, and in regard to the latter Power, there appeared to exist in his mind some latent doubts as to its sincerity in desiring to avert a Russo-Turkish war.

He confirmed to me the report of a large loan having been offered to the Russian Government by foreign capitalists, and of its having been declined. He did not refer to the exact sum, but observed that several foreign agents had been here, and that the capital would have been furnished by Holland, Germany, and even France, and on very advantageous terms.

The impression produced on my mind by this conversation is, that the Emperor and the large majority of the Ministry are decided for peace, and will not engage Russia in a single-handed conflict with Turkey if it can be possibly avoided.

Independently of other causes, this strongly-marked pacific current may be in some measure attributed to a feeling of distrust in the policy and intentions of Prince Bismarck, and of apprehension that in the event of Russia being engaged in a war with Turkey, Prince Bismarck would profit of the opportunity to pick a fresh quarrel with France.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 52.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 5, 11·30 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 5, 1877, 10 A.M.*

FOLLOWING from Monson, dated yesterday:—

"For the Foreign Office:

"Grand Vizier asks Prince Nicholas to state by telegraph that he has given orders to his Commanders to observe the armistice until 21st instant exclusively. His Highness will probably reply to-night that his telegraph of the 1st instant implied his adhesion to the armistice as proposed by the Porte."

No. 53.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 5, 11·30 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 5, 1877, 10·6 A.M.*

FOLLOWING from Monson, dated yesterday:—

"To Lord Derby;

"With reference to my telegram of this evening Prince Nicholas has telegraphed to his Delegates to make to-morrow to the Grand Vizier the formal announcement of his acceptance of the prolongation of the armistice."

No. 54.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 5, 1 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 5, 1877, 11·15 A.M.*

IT appears to me that the success of the negotiations for peace with Montenegro would be greatly promoted if Monson were authorized to inform the Prince that Her Majesty's Government have reason to hope that war between Russia and Turkey will be averted.

No. 55.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 5, 1877.*

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me to-day and said that he was authorized by his Government to request Her Majesty's Government to delay their reply to Prince Gortchakow's Circular of the 19th January, until they had received certain further explanations which the Russian Government had to offer.

No. 56.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 48.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 5, 1877.*

THE Turkish Ambassador called upon me on the 1st instant, and introduced to me Vahan Effendi, Under Secretary of State to the Turkish Minister of Justice, who presented to me a letter from the Grand Vizier, of which I inclose a copy herewith.*

Vahan Effendi said that he was personally charged by the Sultan to explain to me the reasons of Midhat Pasha's dismissal, and of his exile. There was no charge against the late Grand Vizier of conspiracy, as had been reported, or of any grave public offence; but the Sultan considered that he had been assuming personally a position which was incompatible with his (the Sultan's) own authority.

Midhat Pasha took all the power into his own hands, seemed disposed to allow the Sultan no voice in public affairs, and allowed himself to use unbecoming expressions in regard to opinions expressed or suggestions made by the Sovereign. He kept public appointments entirely in his own control, and was surrounded by a party whose language was not such as any Minister ought to countenance. He allowed it to be said that the Constitution was his personal work, and had been extorted from the Sultan against His Majesty's will, whereas the fact was, that the Sultan, on coming to the throne, had been determined to grant the Constitution, which he believed to be necessary for the welfare of the Empire.

There were persons connected with Midhat Pasha who did not scruple to talk about the unnecessary expenses of the Sultan's Court, and the possibility of placing some other member of the family on the throne instead of him. Though it was not alleged that Midhat Pasha had personally held or encouraged this language, yet, when remonstrances had been made to him on the subject, he would give no other answer than that he could not interfere with the free expression of opinion.

These causes had led to Midhat's dismissal from office.

He was sent into exile, not as a penal measure, but because he had so many partizans in Constantinople, that his presence among them would have been attended with public inconvenience, and even danger, and the only reason for keeping back these facts from the European public was, that the Sultan appreciated Midhat's abilities and services, and was anxious to avoid an exposure, which would have destroyed his character as a public man.

Vahan Effendi then went on to speak of the progress that was making in carrying into effect the reforms promised by the Constitution. Active steps, he said, were being taken to create an efficient police, and French officers of gendarmerie were being selected for the purpose. Several Commissions of Inquiry had been appointed with a view to reforms in the judicial system, and it was intended to introduce European administration into the management of the finances.

He felt confident that within two or three months—perhaps within a shorter period—a substantial progress would have been made.

Vahan Effendi concluded by warm expressions of gratitude towards the English Government for the goodwill which they had shown to that of Turkey in the difficult and dangerous crisis through which his country was passing.

I made a suitable reply, declining to express any opinion on the causes which had led to a change of Ministers, but thanking Vahan Effendi for the interesting details which he had been so good as to communicate.

In regard to the reforms of which he had spoken, I said that it was most important that some at least of them should be brought into actual operation at the earliest possible

* No. 4.

No. 56*.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 5.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Berlin, March 5, 1877, 6·30 P.M.*

GENERAL IGNATIEW arrived yesterday and had an interview with Prince Bismarck which lasted six hours.

To-day he is to have an audience of the Emperor.

His language is said to be conciliatory and pacific.

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moment. Assurances of improvements to be made in the future were looked upon with a certain distrust, but that distrust would be removed if it were once seen that a beginning had been made sufficient to show that the Porte was really in earnest in the resolutions which it had so frequently expressed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 57.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 29. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, February 26, 1877.*

I am glad to be able to announce to your Lordship that Prefect Lupascu, of Vaslui, has been superseded, and that M. Miclescu has been named as Prefect of that district.

M. Miclescu belongs to the Moldavian fraction, and I do not hear a very good account of his views on the Jew difficulty; it is, however, satisfactory that the Roumanian Government has recognized that M. Lupascu exceeded his powers, and I have every reason to believe that it is not for the moment desired to attract the attention of Europe to this question, which leads me to expect that, for the present, we shall hear of no more outrages on the Moldavian Jews.

It is also a noteworthy circumstance that a petition has been presented to, and received by, the Senate from various Jews in the Vaslui district, praying for legislation in respect of their disabilities.

No legislation will take place on the subject, but the fact of the petition shows that there is not so much terrorism as heretofore.

This Government would probably not admit that such is the case, but I entertain no doubt that the representations of Her Majesty's and the Austrian Government are having some effect on the condition of the Jews in Moldavia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 58.

Sadiq Pasha, Governor-General of the Vilayet of the Danube, to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, March 6.)

(Télégraphique.) *Roustchouk, le 5 Mars, 1877.*

COMME suite à mon télégramme du 24 Février, je vous informe qu'une Commission Mixte, qui s'est transportée à l'Ile Pirgos, a constaté, sur la déclaration des paysans et sur celle des soldats Princiers, et d'après les traces et les indices convaincants trouvés sur place, que l'attaque a eu lieu réellement dans l'Ile Pirgos. Ainsi, la violation du territoire Ottoman par les soldats Valaques est incontestablement établie. Les délégués Princiers refusent de signer le procès-verbal sous des prétextes qui ne changent en rien le fait constaté.

On espère que le Gouvernement Princier serait cette fois-ci assez raisonnable pour reconnaître la culpabilité de ses autorités.

No. 59.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, March 6.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 5 Mars, 1877.*

VEUILLEZ démentir les rumeurs qui circulent à l'étranger sur la santé et sur la vie privée de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan. Il n'y a pas un mot de vrai dans tout ce que la malveillance débite à cet égard.

No. 60.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, March 6.*)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 6 Mars*, 1877.

LES Délégués Monténégrins sont arrivés. Ils m'ont remis leurs demandes écrites, et nous sommes entrés en négociation.

Je me réserve de vous tenir au courant de la marche de ces négociations.

No. 61.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March 6.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 5*, 1877.

MONSON is under an impression that Austria will object to territory of Montenegro being extended towards the Herzegovina; but the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs assured me to-day that the demand of Prince Nicholas for a [? port]* is the only one considered objectionable here.

No. 62.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March 6, 6 P.M.*)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *St. Petersburgh, March 6*, 1877, 3·45 P.M.

I HAVE been informed that General Ignatiew is charged with a special mission to effect an agreement with Her Majesty's Government on Eastern affairs; he will return by Paris and Vienna.

Prince Gortchakow expresses entire confidence in the acceptance by Germany of any arrangement made with England. Considers that Austria must give adhesion to it; his first and principal object is to come to an agreement with England; it is the reverse of the course pursued on occasion of the Berlin Memorandum.

My private opinion is that General Ignatiew will make every effort to succeed, in the hope of obtaining thereby the Embassy at London, which is the great object of his Excellency's ambition.

I believe, likewise, that the Emperor of Russia is determined not to engage in war.

No. 63.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 77. Secret.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, March 6*, 1877.

THE German Ambassador called to-day, and read to me in the strictest confidence a telegram which he had just received from Prince Bismarck, in which it was stated that General Ignatiew had shown to the Prince the draft of a Protocol intended to be signed by the Powers. This draft was said to enumerate the chief proposals of reform put forward at the Conference; to demand binding assurances from the Porte as to their execution; and to conclude with a declaration on the part of the Powers that, if the Porte should refuse or neglect to fulfil their engagements, they would come to a common agreement.

Prince Bismarck stated that he personally saw no strong objection to the proposal, and that he would probably be willing to sign the Protocol, as he did not consider that it involved any undertaking to use coercive measures against Turkey.

I told his Excellency that much depended on the exact wording of such a document, and that I could express no opinion until I had seen the actual text, but that on the description of it, given in the telegram which he had just read, the following observations occurred to me:—

1. It did not appear what was the precise nature of the reforms to be enumerated.

* Word omitted by cypherer.

2. The nature of the engagements to be entered into by the Porte was not precisely specified.

3. No period was named within which the reforms were to be carried into execution.

4. It was not stated who was to be the judge whether the engagements entered into had been fulfilled.

Lastly, I did not understand what was meant by undertaking to come to a common agreement.

The Powers might, I said, engage to endeavour to do so, but, unless they were already agreed as to the course they would take in certain eventualities, it was impossible to stipulate beforehand that such an agreement should be arrived at.

All these were, I observed, points which would require to be carefully examined before Her Majesty's Government could give their consent to such a document.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 64.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March 6, at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, March 6*, 1877, 5·30 P.M.

I HAVE sent the following to Consul-General at Bucharest:—

"Minister for Foreign Affairs this morning showed me a telegram from the Porte's Representative at Toultcha, saying that Prince Charles of Roumania had just concluded a secret engagement with Russia."

No. 65.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March 6, at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 6*, 1877, 8 P.M.

SINCE addressing to your Lordship my telegram of to-day, I have been informed that the mission of General Ignatiew to London is abandoned, in consequence of a telegram from the Russian Ambassador in London.

No. 66.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March 7.*)

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *Berlin, March 7*, 1877.

GENERAL IGNATIEW is to propose that the Powers should sign a Protocol, recapitulating the points agreed to in the Conference, and invite the Turkish Government to re-consider their decision.

In the event of a refusal, the Powers would undertake to re-discuss among themselves other means of obtaining the desired improvement in the condition of the Christians.

German Emperor and Prince Bismarck see no objection to this proposal, and are willing to agree to it for the sake of peace, if the other Powers consent to support it.

No. 67.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 59.)
Foreign Office, March 7, 1877.

My Lord,

HER Majesty's Government approve your Excellency's note to M. de Giers on the subject of the correspondence between General Kaufmann and the Ameer of Afghanistan, a copy of which is inclosed in your despatch No. 81 of the 22nd ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 68.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 84. Confidential.)
Foreign Office, March 7, 1877.

Sir,

IN your despatch No. 52 of the 17th ultimo, marked Very Confidential, your Excellency has reported what took place in conversations which you had had with Signor Melegari and with the Austrian Ambassador, Baron Huguerle, on the question of the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria; and I have to acquaint your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve of the language which you have held, and of your proceedings in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 69.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 24.)
(Decypher.)
Tiflis, February 12, 1877.

My Lord,

ON further inquiry, I find that no infantry has left Tiflis; two batteries have gone towards Erivan. Three thousand recruits have arrived at Tiflis. Twenty-three hospitals are to be established between Tiflis, Alexandropol, and Poti; six only are ready. One hundred and fifty waggons of ammunition have lately arrived from Russia.

In respect to the twenty waggons of arms mentioned in despatch No. 23, they are either for the people of the Karabagh in Russian territory, or for the people of Karadagh in Persian territory; the population on each side of this part of the frontier are Mussulmans of the Shiite sect.

On the one hand Russia intends to use the Mussulmans of the Karabagh against those of Dagistan, who are Sunnites, and on the other hand she is intriguing with a view to inducing the Persians to take part against Turkey. Russia has, I am told, already secured a certain number among Mussulmans above-mentioned in her favour.

Is it necessary to send anybody to Alexandropol next month? I think that the same interpreter, who is known to Captain Clark, might be employed with advantage.

One hundred and seventy thousand rifles have, I am told, been lately sent from Russia to Enzeli in Persia. I will endeavour to obtain further information of Russian movements in Persian territory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. T. RICKETTS.

No. 70.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 25.)
(Decypher.)
Tiflis, February 14, 1877.

My Lord,

ONE division of about 13,000 men and six batteries are expected to arrive from Russia. One battery of Cossacks arrived here to-day from Russia. Four battalions of 19th division left for Gori and frontier. Some of the militia deserted. Armenian

population is spreading all sorts of reports against Russia; they hope Russians will be defeated; and many of the militia say they will go over to the Turks when an opportunity offers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. T. RICKETTS.

No. 71.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 26.)
(Decypher.)
Tiflis, February 16, 1877.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 25, I communicated that a division of infantry was expected here. I am told that it is the 38th. If this be so, it is evident that the statement given me of the number of troops at Akalzik, mentioned in despatch No. 19, was exaggerated. I will write on this as soon as I have obtained further information; in the meantime, I think that there is nothing to be added to statement given in my despatch No. 19. Report No. 20, which goes by hand, will explain this.

The Cossack battery mentioned in No. 25 has gone to Daghistan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. T. RICKETTS.

No. 72.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 27.)
(Decypher.)
Tiflis, February 22, 1877.

My Lord,

THREE battalions of the 38th Division arrived yesterday at Tiflis, also one battalion of the 20th Division. These divisions form a part of the army of the Caucasus. It would seem, then, that the statement given in my despatch No. 19 was incorrect, and that at present there are only four divisions on the frontier and at Tiflis, namely, the 19th Division, 41st Division, 39th Division, and Grenadier Division; also three battalions Sappers, four battalions Rifles, seven Line, and two Cossack battalions. The 21st Division is in Daghistan, and the 36th and 20th Divisions are *en route*. There are, in short, present at Tiflis and on frontier but ninety battalions, twenty-eight battalions being *en route*. In a short time I hope to be able to give further information on this point.

I am told that in the event of war three other divisions will be ordered ere from Russia.

Despatch No. 20 will be sent as soon as steamer arrives at Poti.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. T. RICKETTS.

No. 73.

Count Andrassy to Count Beust.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Beust, March 8.)

(Not for Blue Book.)
(Traduction.)
Vienne, le 22 Février, 1877.

M. le Comte,

J'AI reçu le rapport de votre Excellence du 26 du mois passé. A mon grand regret j'ai été empêché par une série d'affaires importantes de communiquer à votre Excellence les observations que ce rapport m'avait suggérées.

Dans les entrefaites le Gouvernement de la Reine, suivant la coutume parlementaire, a soumis aux deux Chambres sa correspondance diplomatique. Je ne saurais cacher à votre Excellence que la manière dont il s'est acquitté de cette tâche m'a causé une fâcheuse surprise. Je devais en effet m'étonner que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, après s'être assuré préalablement de notre assentiment à la publication de quelques pièces relativement peu importantes, n'eût pas hésité à livrer à la publicité, sans se préoccuper de notre consentement, mes entretiens strictement confidentiels avec Sir A. Buchanan. J'ai

d'autant plus à me plaindre de cette manière d'agir que je m'étais servi vis-à-vis de cet Ambassadeur de certaines phrases que le Gouvernement devait reconnaître ne pas être destinées ni propres à être publiées, et que selon toute probabilité devaient donner lieu à de fausses interprétations.

Pour ne citer qu'un exemple, la façon dont Sir A. Buchanan rend mes énonciations relativement à une prétendue identité du Panslavisme avec les intérêts Russes est absolument arbitraire et incorrecte. Qu'ensuite une dépêche (No. 989), dans laquelle il est expressément dit qu'elle se rapporte à une communication strictement confidentielle, ait été publiée dans le livre bleu, c'est ce que j'ai de la peine à comprendre.

Je n'ai pas besoin de prouver à votre Excellence que cette manière de procéder n'est pas fondée sur un principe de réciprocité et qu'elle ne répond pas même aux traditions Anglaises. En premier lieu nous avons supprimé le livre rouge. Mais du temps même où votre Excellence se trouvait à la tête des affaires, elle doit se rappeler combien on a toujours soigneusement tenu compte des intérêts étrangers dans le choix des pièces destinées à être insérées dans nos publications officielles. Je rappelle une dépêche adressée par votre Excellence au Baron de Kübeck à Florence pour demander au Gouvernement Italien s'il n'y avait pas d'objections de sa part contre la publication de deux de ses dépêches au Chevalier Minghetti et pour mieux encore illustrer les précédents, je citerai une dépêche envoyée à Berlin par laquelle vous vous mettiez à couvert contre des récriminations possibles du Cabinet de Berlin au sujet de la publication d'une dépêche qui avait votre Excellence elle-même pour auteur.

De même le Gouvernement Anglais n'a pas toujours suivi la pratique actuellement adoptée par lui. En 1871 nous avons eu des explications analogues avec le Gouvernement qui a précédé le Ministère actuel. Votre Excellence trouvera dans les archives de l'Ambassade qu'à cette époque toutes les parties du livre bleu concernant l'Autriche-Hongrie ont été soumises avant leur publication pour être examinées non seulement par notre Ambassadeur à Londres, dont les observations y relatives ont été amplement prises en considération, mais encore au Représentant de la Grande Bretagne à Vienne.

La pratique d'alors me semble répondre le mieux à la nature de la chose. Chaque Gouvernement est parfaitement libre d'agir à sa guise en ce qui concerne les dépêches adressées par lui à ses Représentants à l'étranger; quant aux rapports de ces derniers il ne l'est qu'en tant qu'il ne s'agit pas des intérêts d'un tiers. Sous cette réserve un Gouvernement est libre de publier tout ce qu'il veut. Mais je ne saurais admettre en principe qu'il en soit de même lorsqu'il s'agit de communications confidentielles comme celles dont il est question ici. On ne peut jamais être sûr que de pareilles ouvertures toujours d'un caractère très délicat aient été parfaitement comprises de celui auquel elles ont été faites et à mon avis aucun Gouvernement n'a le droit de se faire uniquement de son point de vue l'interprète des opinions d'un Ministre d'un Etat étranger. Si donc un Gouvernement veut publier des entretiens particuliers que son Représentant a eus avec le Ministre d'une Puissance amie il en résulte pour lui l'obligation de soumettre auparavant à cette dernière le texte de la publication qu'il a en vue. De deux choses l'une: ou il ne faut pas publier les communications confidentielles, ce qui à mon avis est ce qu'il y a de préférable, ou il faut faire constater par la personne qui a été dans le cas de faire des ouvertures que le sens de ces dernières a été rendu exactement. Toute autre manière de procéder doit exclure un échange confidentiel d'opinions.

Vous aurez donc à vous énoncer dans ce sens que tout en ne mettant pas en doute la bonne foi de la personne qui les a écrits je trouve dans quelques rapports des passages qui ne rendent pas exactement ni les mots dont je me suis servi ni le sens de mes paroles. Vous pouvez laisser percer dans vos discours que dans le cas où de pareilles publications iraient se renouveler je serais forcé de me servir de la presse Ministérielle pour me mettre à l'abri des conséquences résultant de cette pratique.

J'ai cru pouvoir me prononcer franchement sur cette question, et je désire qu'il n'existe pas le moindre doute sur notre manière d'envisager les choses. Si donc le Gouvernement Britannique cherche aujourd'hui à expliquer pourquoi il n'a pas également publié les communications confidentielles du Prince Bismarck, j'ai à lui répondre que ce n'est certainement pas cette omission que nous lui reprochons, mais que nous aurions voulu qu'il eût agi envers nous avec la même discrétion.

Je prie votre Excellence de vouloir faire valoir ces observations auprès de Lord Derby et de l'assurer que nous avons le ferme espoir que le Gouvernement de la Reine, prenant en considération notre point de vue dans cette affaire, voudra bien à l'avenir avoir pour nous des égards que nous croyons pouvoir attendre d'une Puissance avec laquelle nous nous trouvons dans de si excellents rapports.

Je saisis, &c.
(Signé) ANDRASSY.

No. 74.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 8.)

(No. 82. Very Confidential.)
Berlin, March 6, 1877.

My Lord,

GENERAL Ignatiew arrived in Berlin on Sunday night and was received by the Emperor on the following day. He dined with Prince Bismarck and had a Conference with his Highness which lasted six hours, and which, I am assured, completely confirmed the friendly understanding already existing between their respective Governments.

The General and Madame Ignatiew intend to go from here to Paris on Wednesday or Thursday next.

It had been their intention to go direct to London, and to visit Paris later in the spring, the General wishing to consult an eminent oculist and Madame Ignatiew to do a little shopping in London; when, to their surprise and disappointment, they received an intimation (from whom does not appear) that your Lordship requested them not to come to London, because General Ignatiew's presence in London during the session would greatly embarrass Her Majesty's Government.

I mention this report because it is much commented upon and regretted in political and diplomatic circles.

General Ignatiew did us the honour of calling at the Embassy last night, and I found his language conciliatory and pacific, and in every way corresponding to that of the Russian Ambassador in London.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 75.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.[a]

(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, March 8, 1877, 6 P.M.

THE report mentioned in your despatch No. 82 of the 6th, that I had requested General Ignatiew not to come to London because his presence during the Session would greatly embarrass Her Majesty's Government, is absolutely unfounded, and you are authorized to contradict it.

No. 76.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 8.)

(Telegraphic.)
Berlin, March 8, 1877.

PRINCE BISMARCK requests me to tell your Lordship that the German Government have decided, in the interest of peace, to support General Ignatiew's proposals if the other Powers are equally willing to do so.

No. 77.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 82. Very Confidential.)
Foreign Office, March 8, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 82, marked "Very Confidential," of the 6th instant, in which you mention that it is reported at Berlin that it had been the intention of General Ignatiew to go direct from that capital to London, but that to his surprise he received an intimation that I requested he would not come to England, my reason for this request being that Her Majesty's Government would find themselves greatly embarrassed by his presence in London during the Session of Parliament. I have

[a] Repeated to Paris, Vienna, St. Petersburgh, Constantinople, and Rome.

to state to your Excellency that this report is absolutely devoid of foundation, and I therefore authorize you to take the earliest opportunity of contradicting it.

I am, &c
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 78.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 86.) *Foreign Office, March* 8, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 66 of the 28th ultimo, reporting a conversation which you have had with Essad Bey, the Turkish Minister, with reference to a report that the Turkish Government contemplated, on peace being concluded with Servia and Montenegro, summoning Russia to disarm, or else to propose a simultaneous disarmament by Russia and Turkey.

I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve the language which you held to Essad Pasha on the occasion in question, as to the policy which Turkey should pursue in the present crisis, and also of your communications with M. Depretis with the object of inducing his Excellency to cause instructions to be sent to the Italian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to urge the Porte at once to adopt such measures as may be in accordance with the recommendations of the Powers represented at the late Conference.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 79.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 87.) *Foreign Office, March* 8, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 68 of the 1st instant, and have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have learnt with satisfaction that the Italian Government had sent instructions to their Consul at Scutari to unite with Her Majesty's Consul in recommending prudence and conciliation in regard to Mirdite affairs.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 80.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.[a]*—(Received March* 8, 7 P.M.)

Constantinople, March 8, 1877, 2 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

THE demands of Montenegrin Delegates are as follows:—

Roughly speaking, the rectification of the frontier proposed at the Conference, with the addition of the islands at the northern end of the Lake of Scutari, but not including the territory on the north-western side of the Southern Zubci.

The port of Spizza, and a small portion of the country, uniting it to the Principality. Freedom of navigation of the Boyan, and engagement to render it navigable to small vessels; Montenegro to furnish a proportion of men for this work. Restoration to their homes of 80,000 refugees from Herzegovina.

Any difficulty raised respecting the cession of territory about and north of Nichsich on the north, and of right bank of the Moracha on the south, will convince Delegates that further negotiations would be fruitless.

Porte has appointed Moukhtar Pasha and Constant Pasha to treat on its behalf. I have pointed out the imprudence of this step, which may seriously compromise the success of the negotiations.

I shall see Moukhtar Pasha, and ascertain his views.

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[a] Repeated to Vienna.

No. 81.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.[a]*—(Received March* 8, 5 P.M.)

Constantinople, March 8, 1877, 2·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

GRAND VIZIER has asked me to communicate the following reforms to your Lordship as being enactment (?) of the Parliament, and at present in the course of execution:—

Reorganization of police under Colonel Baker, as reported in my despatch No. 160 of 2nd instant.

Subdivision of the cazas into nahiés.

Admission of Christians into police.

Admission of Christians into military and administrative colleges.

Prohibition of Circassian colonies in Roumelia.

Non-employment of Bashi-Bazouks.

Remission of taxes in ravaged districts.

Waste lands have already been, and are being given, in Bosnia and Herzegovina to labouring classes.

Facilities of purchase of land accorded to Christians.

Freedom of worship to all denominations; in short, all the proposals of Andrassy note are accepted, and will be executed.

No. 82.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.[a]*—(Received March* 8.)

St. Petersburgh, March 8, 1877, 6 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW cautioned me to-day against believing and reporting the false rumours current here of peace at all price. His Highness said that Russia was most anxious for a pacific solution, but some guarantee was required for an amelioration of the condition of the Christians in Turkey. With a view to obtain this end His Highness stated that a proposal would be submitted to Her Majesty's Government, not as an ultimatum, but open to modifications.

Prince Bismarck, he said, had expressed his entire concurrence in this proposal.

Russian Ambassador in London was to meet General Ignatiew to-day at Paris.

No. 83.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 9.)

(No. 13.) *Scutari, February* 26, 1877.

My Lord,

ALL through the past week the state of affairs in Mirdicia has been increasing in gravity.

The authorities here, although denying it to the public, hurried, night after night, troops and artillery from this to the confines of Mirdicia, and now upwards of 4,600 infantry and a battery and a half of artillery are collected at Alessio and Miet under the respective commands of Brigadier General Ali Pasha and Colonel Rizah Bey.

Capitan Dod Guega, a Mirdite Chief who has remained faithful to the Turks, was sent at the same time to Mirdicia in order to gain over by promises and other means the adherents of Prenk Bib Doda, but he no sooner arrived on the Mirdite mountains than he was surrounded, and it was only the day before yesterday that the Government here heard that he had succeeded in escaping to a place of safety.

From conversations with my French and Italian colleagues I ascertained that they considered that the continuous dispatch of troops to the confines of the disturbed district was likely to lead to speedy conflicts, especially as the Turkish forces could not be brought up to a sufficient strength to impose submission. I entirely concurred in this view, and it was shortly afterwards supported by the fact that the Mirdites had commenced to fire at night on the Turkish sentries posted around Miet.

When, at the commencement of this month, the Mirdite disturbances began to threaten to assume an acute form, I lost no opportunity of pressing upon the Governor-

[a] Repeated to Embassies.

General's attention the desirableness of taking some effectual step to come to an understanding with the Mirdites through their Chief, Prenk Bib Doda, and, at his Excellency's request, I repeated my suggestion in writing. I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy and a translation of my letter to his Excellency.

Mustafa Pasha having fallen ill, and having, moreover, left my letter unanswered, I was unable to proffer him any further advice, and had I done so it would evidently have been unacceptable, as now appears from his tardy reply, sent to me three days ago, and of which I also have the honour to furnish herein a copy and a translation.

On the 24th, the receipt of your Lordship's instructions to me to continue to use my best endeavours to secure a conciliatory and prudent course on the part of the Turkish authorities towards the Mirdites, and an urgent message from Prenk Bib Doda asking me whether an amicable understanding might be hoped for, enabled me to call on the Commander-in-chief, Derwish Pasha, and to solicit his Excellency's co-operation in seeking a satisfactory termination of the Mirdite disturbances.

Derwish Pasha informed me that he now possessed supreme power in the matter, as most positive orders had been sent to him from Constantinople to obtain the immediate opening of the blockaded high roads; but that, as he felt confidence in his strength and power to execute his instructions, he was prepared to exhaust first all the channels of honourable conciliation; and, in support of his assurance, he showed me letters that he was at that moment dispatching to Prenk Bib Doda and to the other Chiefs of Mirdicia. These letters were in reply to one he had received the day before from Prenk Bib Doda, containing a statement, signed by all the Mirdite Chiefs, in which they declared that the reports which had reached his Excellency that they were not all of one mind were false, that they acknowledged Prenk Bib Doda as their supreme Chief, and that the measures they had adopted were not to be considered as levelled against the Sultan's Government, but merely as a means to secure the liberation of their unjustly imprisoned fellow-Chieftain, Marco Gion Nozza.

Although Derwish Pasha's letters breathed a most conciliatory spirit, and were full of promises of rewards for future good conduct, they also contained the announcement that, if the Mirdites did not make their submission within two days, the military forces already collected around their country would attack them.

Fearing greatly that the Mirdites might reject at once the friendly advances of the Commander-in-chief, under the impression that they might not be sincere, I determined to write to Prenk Bib Doda to beg him to give them his most serious consideration, in the hope that some middle course might be hit upon whereby a delay would ensue in the commencement of the threatened hostilities. But, not wishing at such a critical moment, to trust solely to English influence with the Mirdites, which, for the present, is an unknown quantity, no attempt having ever been made before to use it on them, I called upon my French, Austrian, and Italian colleagues, and told them what was taking place, and urged them to follow my example in attempting, however little hope they might have of success, to avert the commencement of conflicts which might lead to acts and horrors of which this Empire had furnished but too many precedents.

M. Ceccaldi, the French Consul, declined to interfere in any way, on the ground that his instructions were not similar to my own, and that having on a former occasion advised the Mirdites to keep on good terms with the Imperial Government without any apparent result, he did not deem it dignified to repeat his counsels.

M. Wassich and M. Berio, the Austrian Consul-General and Italian Consul respectively, were disposed to intervene in favour of a peaceable arrangement, but wished that their assistance should be first formally solicited by the Turkish authorities, and as this was requiring almost the impossible, I was reluctantly obliged to pursue alone the course I had originally decided upon.

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy and a translation of the letter I dispatched on the evening of the 24th to Prenk Bib Doda; and although I have slender confidence of its influencing the Chieftain to any great extent, still I hope my adoption of the sole available means for securing tranquillity will not meet with your Lordship's disapproval.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 83.

Consul Kirby Green to Mustafa Pasha.

Scutari, le 9 Février, 1877.

M. le Gouverneur-Général,

LES affaires de la Mirditie et la conduite de Prenk Pacha ayant été discutées entre votre Excellence, le Commandant-en-chef, et moi, vos Excellences ont exprimé le désir d'avoir une entrevue avec ce Chef Mirdite, pour pouvoir le convaincre de la fausse voie dans laquelle lui et sa tribu se sont engagés, et étant moi-même d'avis que pareille entrevue mènerait probablement à une entente satisfaisante entre le Gouvernement Impérial et les Mirdites, j'ose croire que votre Excellence est convaincue qu'en lui faisant la proposition suivante mon seul but est celui d'aider à la conservation de la tranquillité dans cette province.

Comme il est contre les traditions et les habitudes des montagnards Albanais d'agir sur une invitation venant directement de la partie avec laquelle ils peuvent se trouver en litige, je suis prêt, dans le cas présent, de faire savoir à Prenk Pacha, après avoir reçu des assurances formelles de la part des autorités Impériales de ce vilayet, que lui et sa suite peuvent venir à Scutari en parfaite sécurité pour se mettre en rapport avec ces autorités, et que si, malheureusement, l'entrevue n'aboutirait à rien, il leur serait permis de retourner dans la Mirditie en pleine liberté.

En faisant cette proposition je dois assurer votre Excellence qu'aucun pourparler préalable n'a eu lieu entre moi et Prenk Pacha et que mon espoir qu'il prendrait mes suggestions en considération est basé sur le fait qu'elle serait faite dans ma qualité de Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique et sur le désir notoire de mon Gouvernement que ses Agents aident de leur mieux les autorités Ottomanes à conserver la tranquillité et l'ordre dans l'Empire.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) W. KIRBY GREEN.

(Translation.)

Scutari, February 9, 1877.

M. le Gouverneur-Général,

THE affairs of Mirdicia and the conduct of Prenk Pasha having been discussed between your Excellency, the Commander-in-chief, and me, your Excellencies expressed the desire to have an interview with this Mirdite Chief, in order to convince him of the wrong course he and his tribe have adopted; and I also being of the opinion that such an interview would probably lead to a satisfactory understanding between the Imperial Government and the Mirdites, I hope your Excellency will be convinced that in putting forward the following proposal my only object is to assist in preserving tranquillity in this province.

As it is against the traditions and customs of the Albanian mountaineers to act upon an invitation coming directly from a party with which they may be in dispute, I am prepared, in the present case, to let Prenk Pasha know, after having received formal assurances from the Imperial authorities of this vilayet, that he and his suite may come to Scutari in perfect safety, to put themselves in communication with those authorities; and that if, unfortunately, the interview should have no result, they would be allowed to return to Mirdicia in perfect liberty.

In making this proposal I must assure your Excellency that no preliminary arrangements have passed between me and Prenk Pasha, and that my hope that he will take my suggestion in consideration is based on the fact that I would address him in my official capacity, and on the notorious desire of Her Majesty's Government, that its Agents should assist, to the best of their power, the Ottoman authorities in preserving tranquillity and order in the Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 83.

Mustafa Pasha to Consul Kirby Green.

Scutari, le 22 Février, 1877.

M. le Consul,

J'AI l'honneur d'accuser réception de la note par laquelle vous avez bien voulu m'informer que vous feriez venir à Scutari Prenk Pacha de Mirditie, après avoir reçu des assurances de ma part qu'il pourrait retourner en Mirditie dans le cas que cette entrevue n'aboutirait à aucun résultat.

M

Je ne puis que vous remercier pour vos bons offices à la suite de la bienveillance du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique envers le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman, mais comme cette affaire est du ressort des affaires de l'Etat, j'ai déjà donnés les assurances nécessaires à Prenk Pacha de venir s'il a quelque chose à exposer à l'autorité compétente, et il est par conséquent nécessaire qu'il vienne.

Agréez, &c.
Le Membre du Chourâ Devlet et Gouverneur-Général du Vilayet,
(Signé) MUSTAFA.

(Translation.)

M. le Consul, *Scutari, February* 22, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the note by which you were good enough to inform me that you would make Prenk Pasha come to Scutari from Mirdicia after having received assurances from my side that he might return to Mirdicia in case his interview should lead to no result.

I can only thank you for your good offices which are derived from the good wishes of Her Britannic Majesty's Government towards the Imperial Ottoman Government, but as this affair concerns an affair of State, I have already given assurances to Prenk Pasha that he may come if he has anything to set forth to the competent authority, and consequently it is necessary that he should come.

Receive, &c.
The Member of the Government Council and the Governor-General of the Vilayet,
(Signed) MUSTAFA.

Inclosure 3 in No. 83.

Consul Kirby Green to Prenk Bib Doda Pasha.

(Translation.)

Excellency, *Scutari, February* 24, 1877.

THE messenger that your Excellency has sent me has delivered to me your request for an answer to the letter which was addressed to me under date of the 12th by Capitan Marco, and the assurance that this letter contained the expression of your Excellency's wishes.

I am glad to see your Excellency's conciliatory dispositions as set forth in that letter, and which your Excellency confirms; and in congratulating you regarding them, I can assure you that from my side I will co-operate as much as it is in my power to attain the end that is so much desired by all, and which is for the interests of your Excellency, of Mirdicia, and of the Ottoman Empire.

It is also a pleasure to me to be able to inform your Excellency that the Field-Marshal commanding the army of Albania is animated by the same sentiments; and he allowed me to read the letter which, under the date of to-day, he has addressed to your Excellency, and which, whilst guarding the dignity of his Government, is full of conciliation and goodwill towards your Excellency.

In view of this clear fact I cannot but earnestly exhort your Excellency to consent to take under serious consideration the letter itself and the openings that are offered to you, and which appear to me in accord with the general interests of your Excellency, and of Mirdicia.

I am prepared to second, under the present circumstances, the above ends, and I offer your Excellency the assurance,

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 84.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 9.)

(No. 14.)

My Lord, *Scutari, February* 26, 1877.

YESTERDAY, immediately upon the receipt of the information conveyed to me by Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, that the Porte had ordered the release of the Mirdite Chief Marco Gion Nozza, I called upon the Governor-General and the Commander-in-chief, to ascertain in what manner they were carrying out the announced instructions.

Both the Pashas told me that a reprieve of the sentence of death, under which Marco

Gion Nozza was lying, had arrived; and that, further, they had been empowered to give him his liberty, provided the Mirdites raised the blockade of the high roads, and released the Mohammedans held as hostages at Orosei.

They also informed me that they had already written to the Mirdite Chiefs,—but not to Prenk Bib Doda,—stating upon what conditions Marco Gion Nozza would be liberated, and pledging their sacred words of honour that they would fulfil their promises.

I understood both from Mustafa Pasha and Derwish Pasha that the Porte was most positive in its instructions to them to avoid any step at all calculated to admit the existence of Prenk Bib Doda as an authority, and to reject any assistance in the shape of good offices, from whatever quarter it might come.

As, nevertheless, statements of the above nature are sometimes not entirely correct, I pointed out to the Pashas the evident desire of the Porte to arrive at a peaceable settlement of the Mirdite affairs, and recalled to their minds the repeated demand of the mountaineers that their imprisoned Chief should be first released. If this could not be done, I thought some means ought to be adopted by them for removing all cause of distrust from the minds of the Mirdites. I also suggested that it would be well for them to inform the Porte at once of the undeniable fact that the Mirdites consider Prenk Bib Doda as their supreme Chief, and that any arrangement from which he is to be excluded will take all value out of the settlement.

I cannot report to your Lordship that I have observed any great desire on the part of the Turkish authorities here to enlighten the Porte on the true state of things; and that as their sole object appears to be to establish an Ottoman supremacy over the Roman Catholic mountaineers, which is not practicable, the prospect of matters improving is not great.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 85.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, March 9.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 8 *Mars*, 1877.

L'ŒUVRE de réorganisation que nous avons entreprise, nous la continuons résolument et sans relâche.

Les réformes proposées par la Conférence et acceptées par le Gouvernement Impérial commencent déjà à recevoir leur application. Elles embrassent, vous le savez, deux ordres de faits, c'est-à-dire les réformes résultant des lois organiques qui seront soumises au Parlement, et celles qui peuvent être appliquées dès à présent, à savoir:—

1. La réorganisation de la gendarmerie dont le projet de règlement a déjà été élaboré et remis à M. Baker, Colonel Anglais, pour être étudié.

2. La division des communes en cantons, division à laquelle il sera procédée aussitôt que les autorités provinciales auront réuni et envoyé à Constantinople les renseignements topographiques qui leur ont été demandés sur les circonscriptions communales.

3. L'institution de corps de gendarmerie mixte composés de Musulmans et de Chrétiens, système déjà existant sur plusieurs points de l'Empire.

4. L'admission des sujets non-Musulmans dans les écoles militaires récemment autorisée et décrétée par notre auguste Maître.

5. La défense de la colonisation en Roumélie de Circassiens en masse, et le non-emploi des irréguliers, sauf le cas de force majeure.

6. L'interdiction déjà publiée partout du port d'armes sans une autorisation spéciale.

7. L'amnistie pour les individus dans les derniers événements de Philippopoli.

8. La formation des Commissions Spéciales qui seront incessamment envoyées dans les Vilayets de Bosnie, du Danube et d'Adrinople.

9. La consécration de la liberté de culte, ainsi que la confirmation et l'application de la décision en vertu de laquelle les affaires litigieuses concernant la religion sont du ressort des Patriarcats.

10. La remise pour les localités éprouvées, et jusqu'au 1er Janvier, 1877, des impôts arriérés, et

11. Les droits de propriété déjà acquis aux Chrétiens en Bosnie et en Herzégovine.

Les lois qui doivent être présentées à la première session de la Chambre sont les suivantes :—

1. Le règlement intérieur des deux Chambres.
2. La loi électorale définitive.
3. La loi sur la presse.
4. La nouvelle loi des vilayets comprenant la loi des communes.
5. La loi municipale.
6. La loi sur la procédure civile.
7. La loi sur l'organisation des Tribunaux.
8. La loi établissant la hiérarchie des Juges, ainsi que les conditions de leur avancement et de leur retraite.
9. La loi concernant les employés civils.
10. Le budget général de l'Empire.

Enfin, 11. Le règlement de la nouvelle Cour des Comptes.

Les élections étant terminées sur toute l'étendue de l'Empire, les députés commencent à arriver dans la capitale, de sorte que l'ouverture des deux Chambres pourra avoir lieu dans la première semaine du mois de Mars, vieux style.

No. 86.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 8, 1877, midnight.*
(Confidential.)

IN a private telegram Monson reports that he has been told confidentially by the Prince of Montenegro, that his demand for a port is the only one on which he may possibly not insist; that, if he gives it up, it will be out of deference to Austria, of whose policy he complains bitterly.

No. 87.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, March 9, 1877.*
(Secret.)

THERE was a reception at Court last night, at which great anxiety prevailed respecting the success of General Ignatiew's mission.

The Emperor told me that peace or war now depended on the attitude of England, and he most earnestly hoped Her Majesty's Government would be able to support Russia, and maintain peace.

The Ministers and Generals present spoke in the same sense.

No. 88.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 9, 1877, 7·30 P.M.*
(Confidential.)

THE Italian Ambassador read to me to-day a telegram from his Government, stating that General Ignatiew had told Italian Ambassador at Berlin that Russia could not leave for a year Christians in Turkey exposed to Mussulman fanaticism; that Powers should pledge themselves, after two months, to consult whether Porte had seriously undertaken the necessary reforms or not; such an agreement to be embodied in a Protocol.

No. 89.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.[*]

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 9, 1877, 7:50 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Government approve your conduct, as reported in your telegram of yesterday.

You are authorized to use your good offices, if opportunity offers, to bring about a settlement between the Porte and Montenegro.

No. 90.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 66. Very Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 9, 1877.*

THE Austrian Ambassador communicated to me a few days ago a despatch from Count Andrassy,† of which I inclose a copy for your confidential information, respecting the publication in the papers recently presented to Parliament, of certain despatches containing accounts of your conversations with his Excellency.

Her Majesty's Government regret that Count Andrassy should consider that he has any cause to complain of the publication of the despatches in question, but at the same time they cannot admit that a foreign Government can claim as a matter of right to be consulted as to the publication of papers presented to Parliament.

In the present instance, the usual course has been strictly followed. Proofs of the several papers communicated by the Austro-Hungarian Embassy in London were sent unofficially to Count Beust, and proofs of the despatches received from Her Majesty's Embassy at Vienna were similarly sent to your Excellency.

There appears to Her Majesty's Government to be an obvious distinction between showing to a foreign Ambassador the proofs of papers which he has communicated, in order to allow of verbal corrections or even of a suggestion for partial omissions of passages relating to personal matters, &c., and submitting to the revision of a foreign Government, as Count Andrassy contemplates, the proofs of all the despatches relating to that Government, and giving them a veto in their publication.

Occasions must frequently arise when the suppression of despatches containing important information would give an erroneous notion of the policy pursued, and the reasons which led to it.

Her Majesty's Government wish you to explain the matter to Count Andrassy in the sense of this despatch, and to assure him that they desire to afford to the Austro-Hungarian Government every courtesy in regard to the publication of papers, so far as the right of Parliament to call for the presentation of correspondence and the established practice of this country will admit.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 91.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 89. Secret and Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 9, 1877.*

THE Italian Ambassador called upon me to-day and read to me a telegram from his Government as to General Ignatiew's mission.

General Ignatiew was stated in this telegram to have told the Italian Ambassador at Berlin that Russia could not afford to wait a year, leaving the Christians in European Turkey exposed to the consequences of Mussulman fanaticism. The General had gone on to say that the Powers ought to fix a term of two months, after which they should pledge themselves to consult ("aviser") whether the Porte had or had not seriously undertaken

[*] Repeated to Sir A. Buchanan, and told him "to inform Monson by telegraph." † No. 73.

the necessary reforms, and the agreement to that effect should be embodied in a Protocol.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 92.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 123.) *Foreign Office, March 9, 1877.*

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government approve your having pointed out the imprudence of the appointment of Moukhtar Pasha and Constant Pasha to treat with Montenegro as reported in your telegram of the 8th instant, and I have to authorise you, if opportunity offers, to use your good offices to bring about a settlement between Montenegro and the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 93.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 185. Confidential.) *Paris, March 9, 1877.*

My Lord,

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF came to Paris from London three days ago, and General Ignatiew arrived here from Berlin yesterday.

Count Schouvaloff came to see me on the 6th instant, and General Ignatiew called upon me this afternoon, and spoke to me at some length of his views respecting the Eastern question.

He said that his own objects might be stated in a few words. He desired the maintenance of peace, of the united action of Europe, and of a cordial understanding between England and Russia.

He gave as one of the principal reasons of his desire to avoid a war between Russia and Turkey the dilapidated state of the Ottoman Empire, the fear that if it sustained any shock it would tumble to pieces, and the inconvenience and danger to Russia and to Europe of having to face such an event.

He represented the poverty and distress of the people, no less at Constantinople than in the provinces of Turkey, as extreme. As for the army, he said, officers and privates were alike unpaid, horses and supplies were taken by force from the inhabitants, and the little money the Porte could get together was expended on projectiles.

He considered that it became every day more urgent that the Powers should put an end to a state of things which was the cause of great and increasing suffering, particularly to the Christians.

With a view to hastening the decision of the Powers, and maintaining the unity of Europe, the Emperor had, he said, desired him to give explanations calculated to facilitate the task of putting an end to the unfortunate position in which matters were placed by the rejection of the recommendations of the Constantinople Conference.

It was, of course, he went on to say, impossible for Russia to disarm unless the Government could show the people that something had been obtained as a return for the expense of the mobilization of the army; in short, that Russia and the rest of Europe had not been absolutely set at nought by the Porte, and that some security had been obtained for an improvement of the condition of the Christians in Turkey. The Conference had separated at Constantinople without drawing up a final Protocol. But this omission might be remedied. A Protocol might now be signed, embodying the reforms ultimately recommended by the Conference, requiring the Porte to execute them, and stating that if the Porte should neglect to do so the Powers "aviseraient."

General Ignatiew proceeded to observe that he used purposely the vague expression "aviseraient," as it might be difficult to come to an agreement beforehand as to the exact steps to be taken. It would be desirable, he thought, that a Turkish Representative should sign the Protocol, but he did not consider this essential. It would, he conceived, suffice if it were signed by Representatives of the Six Powers; and, for his own part, he should be inclined to suggest that it should be signed in London by your Lordship and by the resident Ambassadors at Her Majesty's Court.

General Ignatiew's language implied that on the signature of such a Protocol Russia would place her army on a peace footing again, but he did not say this in so many words.

He concluded by telling me that he had fully explained the views of the Emperor to Count Schouvaloff, who would set out for London to-morrow morning to communicate them to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 94.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, March 10.)

(Télégraphique.)
(Confidentielle.) *Constantinople, le 9 Mars, 1877.*

LE Général Ignatiew, qui se trouve actuellement à Berlin, a chargé notre Chargé d'Affaires de nous rapporter que la Sublime Porte était à même d'éviter la guerre par un procédé très-simple, à savoir: conclure également la paix avec le Monténégro; se mettre à l'œuvre réformatrice; et envoyer à St. Pétersbourg un Ambassadeur capable afin de s'expliquer avec le Gouvernement de l'Empereur et rétablir entre les deux Cours les anciens bons rapports.

Le Général a ajouté que l'Europe exigerait peut-être cela, et qu'il serait sage pour la Sublime Porte d'en prendre l'initiative. Dans le cas contraire, selon le Général, la guerre serait inévitable où la Turquie mettrait en jeu son existence, et les exigences futures de nos éléments divers inspireraient de l'inquiétude à la Russie.

Veuillez communiquer ce qui précède à Lord Derby, à titre confidentiel et pour son information.

No. 95.

Lord Tenterden to M. Zankof.

Foreign Office, March 10, 1877.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th ultimo inclosing a petition addressed to the English Parliament by the Deputies of ten towns in Bulgaria; and I am to explain to you in reply that it is contrary to the practice of the English Parliament to receive petitions from foreign subjects not resident in the Queen's dominions.

Lord Derby is consequently unable to undertake the presentation of this petition to Parliament.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 96.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 10, 5 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 10, 1877, 2 P.M.*

AS the Minister for Foreign Affairs mentioned to me some days ago, the report itself having been intimated to General Ignatiew, that his presence in London might cause inconvenience to Her Majesty's Government, I requested Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to-day to inform his Excellency that your Lordship had stated it to be unfounded; and I am told he observed that the objection must have come from Count Schouvaloff.

No. 97.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 10, 5 P.M.)

Vienna, March 10, 1877, 2·31 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to Lord A. Loftus' telegram of the 8th instant, I have been informed by Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that it was not quite correct to state that Prince Bismarck had expressed his entire concurrence in the proposals of Russia, as his Highness has merely said that the proposed Protocol does not appear to contain provisions which could be objected to as engaging in any way the future action of the Powers.

Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs professed to be unacquainted with the terms of the Protocol.

No. 98.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 10, 5·30 P.M.)

Vienna, March 10, 1877, 2·45 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

DURING an interview which I had to-day with the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs he was sent for by Count Andrassy.

I therefore gave him a Memorandum of the reforms in Turkey reported in Mr. Jocelyn's telegram of the 8th instant as being already in the course of execution, and I requested him to communicate it to (? his Excellency).

On his return he said it had been read with much interest and satisfaction by his Excellency.

No. 99.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

Foreign Office, March 10, 1877, 6·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.)

GENERAL IGNATIEW has told Turkish Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin that the Porte may avoid war by concluding peace with Montenegro, setting seriously to work at reforms, and sending a capable Ambassador to St. Petersburgh; that the Powers would probably demand these measures, and that Turkey would do wisely to take the initiative.

I have told Musurus Pasha, who has communicated this to me confidentially, that his Government had better accept the overture as made with a friendly intention; and that I thought it would be well that they should have a competent Ambassador at St. Petersburgh.

No. 100.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

Foreign Office, March 10, 1877.

(No. 125.)

Sir,

THE Turkish Ambassador communicated to me to-day in confidence a telegram from his Government stating that General Ignatiew had informed the Porte through the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin, that it was in their power to avoid war by a very simple proceeding.

The Sultan should conclude peace at once with Montenegro, take the work of reform seriously in hand, and send a capable Ambassador to St. Petersburgh to furnish explanations, and to re-establish the good relations formerly existing between the two Courts.

General Ignatiew had added that these steps would not impossibly be demanded by the Powers, and that it would be wise on the part of the Porte to take the initiative.

In the contrary case General Ignatiew said, war would inevitably follow, in which the existence of Turkey would be at stake, and the future requirements of the various elements of that Empire would be a cause of anxiety and embarrassment to Russia.

I told Musurus Pasha that I thought his Government would do well to accept this overture as made in a friendly spirit and intention. I did not myself see any reason why the Porte should not have an Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, and I should advise that one should be sent.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 101.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received March* 11.)

Constantinople, March 10, 1877, 5·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs has told me that the demands of Prince of Montenegro with regard to districts of Nichsich and right bank of the Moracha cannot be complied with.

Porte has offered small rectification of frontier near Zubza and the Piva on the side of Herzegovina; but demands in return cession of a portion of territory south of Kolastchin.

The question will be referred to Council of Ministers to-morrow, but I fear there is little chance of an arrangement on the Prince's basis.

I have tendered the good offices of Her Majesty's Government, but unless Porte were convinced that Russia would regard a non-settlement as a *casus belli*, I do not think that it would yield. My Austrian colleague is instructed to support the Prince's claim, but to abstain from actively pressing that relating to a port.

No. 102.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 11.)

Constantinople, March 10, 1877, 5·40 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE been informed on good authority that Halil Cherif Pasha is about to proceed to Paris as the Porte's Ambassador.

No. 103.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 11.)

Constantinople, March 10, 1877, 11·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

TURKISH Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin informs the Grand Vizier that he has been requested by General Ignatiew to communicate to him unofficially a very simple proceeding which would lead to peace. This should consist in conclusion of peace with Montenegro, prosecution of work of reform, and the sending to St. Petersburgh of an able Ambassador charged with such explanations to the Emperor as would reestablish ancient good relations between Turkey and Russia. Europe will, perhaps, insist on these points, but in any case it would wish the Porte to take the initiative as the only means by which war can be avoided.

No. 104.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received March* 11.)

Constantinople, March 10, 1877, 11·40 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

MOUKHTAR PASHA explained to me this morning the strategical reasons for refusing the cession of Nichsich and Spuz to Montenegro.

On the north, his Excellency said, were the desired territory ceded, Turkey would have no line of defence but that of Trebigné, Gatchko, and Focha; amounting, in fact, to the cession of more than half of the Herzegovina.

* Repeated to Vienna for Mr. Monson.

On the south, to retire from the frontier to the right bank of the Moracha would involve loss of four principal fortresses guarding Albania.

The cession of these two districts would infallibly call forth a most dangerous outburst from the Mussulman population of European Turkey.

No. 105.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)*

Ragusa, March 10, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE informed Prince Nicholas that Her Majesty's Government have instructed Mr. Jocelyn to use his good offices to bring about an arrangement between Turkey and Montenegro.

His Highness charges me to state to your Lordship that the Porte offers portions of four districts in exchange for part of the Vassoivitchi, which is his most valuable district. His Highness declares that he foresees an arrangement to be impossible, as he must insist on receiving at least as much as Powers proposed; but that he has told his Delegates not to leave Constantinople at present.

No. 106.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

Vienna, March 11, 1877, 9 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

THE following is from Monson, dated yesterday:—

"Am requested by Prince Nicholas to invoke the intervention of Her Majesty's Government in regard to the execution by the Turkish authorities of the stipulation of the Convention for the transport of provisions, reported in my despatch of the 8th ultimo. The snow has been falling since the 21st, and is six feet deep on the mountains, consequently only 120 horseloads have yet arrived at Nichsich; but the Prince has applied to the Austrian Government to help to clear the road, and will do his utmost to send provisions quickly. The Turks, however, make this a pretext for refusing to send any grain to the head of Lake Scutari, and the people of the eastern districts are suffering terribly from famine in consequence. The Turks have accumulated a certain quantity of grain at Scutari. The Prince hopes that in the interest of humanity Her Majesty's Government will urge the Porte not to delay forwarding the grain, engaging himself solemnly to keep his part of the contract as soon as the route to Nichsich can be cleared."

No. 107.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 151.)

Constantinople, March 1, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegrams of the 19th ultimo and of to-day's date, I have the honour to inclose herewith lists giving the dates and nature of the sentences pronounced by the Special Commissions which sat at Philippopolis and Sofia last summer to try the persons implicated in the Bulgarian insurrection.

Other Special Commissions sat at Adrianople and Tirnova, but, though every effort has been made to obtain detailed statements respecting the sentences they passed, and though the required information has been promised, it has not been possible, as yet, to procure it.

As soon as it reaches me, I shall not fail to forward it to your Lordship without delay.

It would have been impossible for Mr. Baring to have drawn up a detailed statement, such as is now called for by your Lordship, from the data he had in his possession, and it has been, consequently, necessary to apply to other quarters before carrying out your Lordship's instructions.

Your Lordship will observe that the Tribunal of Philippopolis, under the presidency of Salim Effendi, pronounced eighty-six sentences, while the one which sat a Sofia, under the presidency of Lehib Effendi, pronounced sixty-eight.

* Repeated to Constantinople.

Since the end of August no political prisoners have been sentenced, and those who are still in prison, and whose cases have not been concluded, are mostly accused of murder.

At the end of October Pertev Effendi went to Philippopolis to dispose of the remaining cases, but he has been proceeding but slowly, and though he has not pronounced any sentences, he had only ordered the release of six prisoners up to the 10th ultimo, the date of Mr. Baring's departure.

No Special Commissioner has been sent to Sofia, and the cases of the prisoners still unsentenced are being tried before the ordinary Tribunal, which, I regret to say, does not bear a very spotless reputation.

Mr. Vice-Consul Calvert has just reported to me, by telegraph, that two men of the village of Tchirpan, who had been released from prison on bail, have been re-arrested; the motive of this action on the part of the authorities is not known.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 107.

SENTENCES passed on Bulgarians by Special Commission at Philippopolis.

Date.	Description and number of Persons sentenced.	Whence.	Sentence.
June 19, 1876	2 priests	Tchemnileh Yenikeui	Death.
" "	1 schoolmaster	Ditto	Ditto.
" "	11 villagers	Ditto	Ditto.
" "	1 "	Ditto	10 years' hard labour.
" "	8 "	Ditto	7½ do.
" "	10 "	Ditto	5 do.
" "	1 priest	Ditto	5 do.
" "	2 villagers	Gnelvéré	Death.
June 28	1 villager	Zirchitzako	Ditto.
July 5	1 priest	Ditto	Ditto.
" "	3 villagers	Ditto	7½ years' hard labour.
" "	2 "	Ditto	5 do.
" "	6 "	Ditto	3 do.
" "	1 priest	Ditto	3 do.
July 17	2 villagers	Gnelvéré	15 do.
" "	1 priest	Ditto	15 do.
" "	4 villagers	Ditto	3 do.
" "	1 villager	Lesitchovo	7½ do.
" "	1 "	Ditto	7 do.
" "	1 "	Ditto	3 do.
" "	2 villagers	Gnelvéré	Death.
July 19	2 "	Ditto	Ditto.
" "	2 "	Ditto	Ditto.
July 25	1 priest	Avrad Alan	Ditto.
" "	1 villager	Ditto	15 years' hard labour.
" "	1 "	Ditto	10 do.
" "	1 schoolmasters	Ditto	10 do.
" "	1 villager	Ditto	5 do.
" "	1 "	Ditto	Death.
July 26	1 "	Perouchtitza	Ditto.
July 30	1 "	Monsaf (Slimnia)	Hard labour for life.
August 5	1 "	Tchemnidek Yenikeui	7 years' hard labour.
" "	2 villagers	Kozarsko	3 do.
" "	1 villager	Ditto	12 do.
" "	1 monk	Bratzigovo	15 do.
		Kozarsko	(Died in prison.)

Sentenced to death	28
" hard labour	58
Total of Sentences	86

Number of persons originally imprisoned at Philippopolis, 1,936:—	
Sentenced	86
Still unsentenced	46
Sent to Adrianople or other towns	154
Died in prison	25
Released	1,625
	1,936

Inclosure 2 in No. 107.

SENTENCES passed on Bulgarians by Special Commission at Sofia.

Date.	Description and number of Persons sentenced.	Whence.	Sentence.
June 27, 1876 ..	5 villagers	Avrad Alan	Death.
,, ,, ..	3 ,, ...	Berkovcha	Ditto.
July 20 ,, ..	1 priest	Poibrend	Ditto. } Commuted to hard labour for life.
,, ,, ..	1 ,, ...	Gudvéné	Ditto. }
,, ,, ..	1 ,, ...	Petrich	Ditto. }
Aug. 11 ,, ..	12 villagers	Fatma	Death.
,, ,, ..	7 ,, ...	Belitza	Ditto.
,, ,, ..	1 ,, ...	Derrend	Ditto.
Aug. 15 ,, ..	1 schoolmaster ..	Ditto	15 years' hard labour.
,, ,, ..	1 villager	Ditto	15 do.
,, ,, ..	3 ,, ...	Fatma	15 do.
,, ,, ..	1 ,, ...	Derrend	13 do.
,, ,, ..	1 ,, ...	Ken-tendil	10 do.
,, ,, ..	1 ,, ...	Belitza	9 do.
,, ,, ..	1 ,, ...	Avrad Alan	8 do.
,, ,, ..	1 ,, ...	Fatma	6 do.
,, ,, ..	1 ,, ...	Avrad Alan	5 do.
,, ,, ..	2 ,, ...	Fatma	5 do.
,, ,, ..	3 ,, ...	Derrend	4 do.
,, ,, ..	1 ,, ...	Avrad Alan	4 do.
,, ,, ..	7 ,, ...	Fatma	4 do.
,, ,, ..	3 ,, ...	Teborlon	4 do.
,, ,, ..	1 ,, ...	Fatma	3 do.
,, ,, ..	4 ,, ...		

Number of persons originally imprisoned at Sofia, 535 :—	
Executed	28
Condemned to death, and sentence commuted	3
Condemned to hard labour	31
Released	457
Unsentenced	16
	535
Hung at Sofia	16
,, Samakow	6
,, Tchtiman	6
	28

No. 108.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 11.)

(No. 152. Confidential.)

Constantinople, March 1, 1877.

My Lord,

THE negotiations for peace with Servia were successfully brought to an end this morning by the signature of the note recording its conclusion by the Servian Delegates, and the Protocol by these and the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs.

This happy result has been greatly owing to the conciliatory disposition displayed by the Grand Vizier, whose very considerable concessions throughout the negotiations have not been altogether approved by either the party of progress or by the army.

On the arrival of M. Christich I called upon him, and I gathered from his conversation that the two principal points of disagreement between him and the Porte would be the question of the Agent at Belgrade, and that of the mention of the amnesty in the instrument recording peace: always supposing the proposition for territorial rectification to remain in abeyance.

He also told me that his Government would prefer the conclusion of peace to be recorded in a Protocol signed by both the parties, to accepting a mere renewal of the former Firman from the Sultan.

Safvet Pasha, whom I saw immediately after his first interview with M. Christich, said, on the other hand, that he could not agree to such an arrangement, but wished the Prince, or at least his Delegates, to address a note to the Grand Vizier, recording in it the renewed engagements they were about to undertake.

On my referring incidentally to the question of the Drina frontier, I could easily perceive that there was no intention on the part of his Excellency to enter upon its discussion during the present negotiations.

At the next sitting of the Plenipotentiaries, Carathéodory Effendi, the Under-Secretary of State, being associated with Safvet Pasha, the question of the Agent was brought forward, and, as I had anticipated, raised an animated discussion, which, however, terminated in the Porte giving way, and accepting a verbal assurance as to the Agent being received at Belgrade, but consenting to waive all mention of him in the Protocol.

The idea of inserting the amnesty to the refugees in the peace Protocol was particularly repulsive to the Porte, which seemed to fear that advantage would be taken of it to induce them to suppose that they were amnestied at the demand of Servia. After considerable hesitation, however, the Porte yielded, and it was decided that both a note and a Protocol should be prepared, in the latter of which the amnesty should be recorded.

The last concession made by the Porte referred to the Firman.

M. Christich was anxious, for his own sake, that when the peace proposals were submitted to the approval of the Great Skuptchina, which had been convoked at Belgrade in order to ratify them, the term "Firman" might not appear, and the Porte at first seemed as determined not to employ any other.

The discussion lasted several hours, M. Christich even going so far as to threaten to return to Belgrade should his terms not be complied with; and a close Council of Ministers having been called, the moderate counsels of the Grand Vizier prevailed, and the words "Acte usitée" were substituted for the objectionable "Firman."

The last difficulty thus successfully overcome, the Servian Delegates and the Foreign Minister signed the Protocol the same day.

I have the honour to inclose the copy of the Protocol, but I have not been able as yet to obtain one of the note, which, however, I will forward by the first opportunity.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure in No. 108.

Protocol signed by Servian and Turkish Plénipotentiaries.

CEJOURD'HUI $\frac{10}{28}$ Février, 1877, les Délégués de Son Altesse le Prince de Serbie MM. Ph. Christich et D. Matitch, s'étant réunies en séance chez son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, ont déclaré qu'ils pensaient être arrivés au terme de leurs travaux et que l'accord s'était établi avec son Excellence le Ministre, conformément à la note explicative remise par eux à la Sublime Porte à la date du $\frac{10}{28}$ Février.

MM. les Délégués ont en conséquence déclaré qu'en vertu de pleins pouvoirs qui leur ont été conférés par le Gouvernement Princier ils confirment les désirs de leur dit Gouvernement de voir rétablir les relations avec la Cour Suzeraine sur le pied du *statu quo ante*.

Son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères a de son côté déclaré au nom de la Sublime Porte qu'il prenait acte de la dite note explicative sus-visée; que le Gouvernement Impérial avait résolu de rétablir ses relations avec la Principauté de Serbie sur le pied du *statu quo ante*, et que cette décision sera communiquée au Prince dans les formes usitées jusqu'ici.

Dans cette situation et à l'effet de déterminer aussi explicitement qu'il est nécessaire la portée du principe du *statu quo ante*, et d'éviter tout malentendu qui pourrait se produire à cet égard, on constate qu'en vertu de cet accord il est entendu :—

1. Que le rétablissement du *statu quo ante* signifie, sans qu'il soit besoin d'autres et plus longues explications, le rétablissement complet et sans exception de toutes les clauses et stipulations inscrites dans les Hatts Impériaux, et dans les autres actes concernant la Serbie et notamment le Hatt du 11 Avril, 1867 (5 Zilhidje, 1283) relatif aux régimes des forteresses.

2. Que la Sublime Porte ayant déjà accordé une amnistie pleine et entière aux sujets Ottomans qui auraient été compromis dans les derniers événements le Gouvernement Princier, de son côté, accorde également le pardon et l'oubli aux Serbes qui ont été compromis dans ces mêmes et malheureux événements.

3. Que dans le délai de douze jours à partir de la date des présentes, les troupes Impériales et les troupes Serbes évacueront le territoire occupés par elles en dehors des

anciennes lignes de démarcation afin que ce délai écoulé, les autorités respectives reprennent l'exercice de leur légitime action.

Dont acte fait en double.

(Signé) SAFVET. (Signé) PH. CHRISTICH.
D. MATTTCH.

No. 109.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 154.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March 2, 1877.*

MR. CONSUL GREEN will have kept your Lordship informed of the state of affairs in Mirdicia, and of the unwise conduct of the Turkish authorities at Scutari in fomenting the irritation of the Mirdites against the Porte by the vexatious proceedings of the Commander-in-Chief, Dervish Pasha, in dealing with their grievances.

I have had frequent interviews with Safvet Pasha on this subject, and have always advised that conciliatory measures should be adopted towards this community, whose feelings of loyalty to the Ottoman Government had always been manifested whenever they had been put to the test.

His Excellency promised to see into the matter, and also to remove Salih Pasha, who had been sent by the Governor of Scutari to come to an understanding with them, but who, I had been informed, was more likely to widen the breach than to mend it.

A week ago, however, the Grand Vizier told me he had given orders for the pardon and release of the Chief Marco, who was imprisoned at Scutari, and whose prolonged confinement had embittered the feelings of his followers against the Turkish authorities.

It appears that Dervish Pasha, on the other hand, was inclined to make his release conditional upon the Mirdites retiring from the hostile position they had taken up against the Government, and upon their opening the roads, which they had hitherto kept blocked as a reprisal.

At last yesterday, after repeated representations on my part, the Grand Vizier sent a peremptory order to Dervisch Pasha to release the man, which was accordingly done, and I believe he has been allowed to return home.

I trust, therefore, that tranquillity may be restored, and that the Porte may see the wisdom of adopting towards the Mirdites a more conciliatory policy than it has lately pursued.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

No. 110.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 155. Very Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March 2, 1877.*

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 20th ultimo, respecting the execution of the authors of the Bulgarian atrocities, I determined to have its substance communicated to the Sultan, as I knew that His Majesty being on extremely intimate terms with the present Grand Vizier, would not fail to bring powerful pressure to bear upon his Government to insure the execution of any measure in connection with it which he might himself approve.

I knew that he did feel strongly in regard to this matter, and was most anxious to respond to the earnest representation which your Lordship addressed to him through Her Majesty's Ambassador in September last; and I believe, moreover, that the course I followed has been justified, and that His Majesty has spoken very plainly to his Ministers on the subject.

The confidential agent who took my message on this occasion was Hobart Pasha, and His Majesty, in returning to me the reply which I had the honour to forward to your Lordship, expressed a hope that I would freely communicate with him regarding any difficulty which his personal influence might be of service in removing, and that I would consider Hobart Pasha as the agent whom he wished me to employ for that purpose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

No. 111.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 156.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March 2, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Acting Vice-Consul at Philippopolis, reporting that the Turks who caused the death of Pope Boitcho, of Streldja, as reported by Mr. Baring in his despatch to me of the 4th ultimo, forwarded to your Lordship in my despatch No. 122 of the 12th ultimo, are being tried, and that their arrest has produced a good effect at Streldja, where previously crimes of violence had been frequently committed.

Mr. Calvert also reports that the Government is paying salaries of 150 piastres a month to each of the Bulgarian priests in the destroyed villages.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 111.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Jocelyn.

Sir, *Philippopolis, February 18, 1877.*

UNDER pressure from Sadoullah Bey the authorities have shown unaccustomed activity in bringing to justice the assailants of Pope Boitcho, of Streldja, whose death, in consequence of ill-treatment by certain Turks of that village, has already, I understand, been reported to you by Mr. Baring. After a preliminary examination in the Criminal Court of Tatar-Bazardjik, the four culprits—Suleiman Hadji Ibrahim Oglou, Muhtervia Tater Oglou, Mehmed Hodja Oglou, and Suleiman Zemel Oglou—were brought a day or two since into Philippopolis, heavily chained. They are now being tried before the Criminal Court of Appeal here. It is probable, however, that the prisoners will not be found guilty of actual murder, for the body of Pope Boitcho was examined by the assistant of the English doctor employed by Viscountess Strangford in her hospital at Ottloukeui, and the doctor delivered, on the report of his assistant, a certificate which would undoubtedly justify a verdict of manslaughter. I herewith inclose a copy of this certificate.

The effect produced by the arrest of these men affords an example of how little severity is required to restrain the Mussulman population. Since that arrest took place I learn from Bulgarians of Streldja that the Turks of that village, which had been till then the scene of frequent outrages, have ceased to molest the Christians.

In measure as the country becomes more secure, incidents of the period of the late rising transpire, which show the wanton lengths to which the Mussulmans, when their short-lived terror of the insurgents was over, carried their revenge.

The Bulgarian Bishop has just been applied to for a divorce in the case of a boy of thirteen and a young woman of 20, natives of Dobroulak, in the Rouptchos district, who nine months ago were married by the village priest. This peculiarly-matched couple were driven to the altar by the Mollah of the village, who compelled the priest to unite them in due form. The circumstances under which the union took place justify a separation according to the rules of the Church.

An order has, moreover, been issued for the arrest of the facetious Mollah, who is said to have effected no less than eight marriages, by a similar process to the above, amongst the Bulgarians of the village. Other cases of the same nature are stated by the Bulgarian bishop to have occurred in different parts of the district, but in no other instance as yet has a divorce been sought.

Sadoullah Bey informs me that orders have been sent him by the Porte to bestow salaries of 150 piastres a month on each of the Bulgarian priests in the destroyed villages, as an indemnity for the loss they suffer owing to the impoverishment of their parishioners, on whose voluntary contributions they depend for support.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. S. CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 111.

Certificate of Dr. Henry Dobson regarding the Death of Pope Boitcho, of Streldja.

Panagurishté (Otlou-kevi), January 29, 1877.

I HEREBY certify that, having attended the late Pope Boitcho in his last illness, and my assistant having examined the corpse, I am of opinion that his death was due to injuries received from some evil-disposed person or persons.

I further wish to state that the late Pope Boitcho had been a patient under my care before receiving the said injuries; he was then suffering from a nervous disorder, which would probably have terminated fatally in from four to ten years, according to the care he took of himself.

(Signed) HENRY DOBSON, M.D.

No. 112.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 157.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 2, 1877.

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 71 of the 5th ultimo, I directed Mr. Consul Blunt to inquire and report upon the outrage committed at Bouloustrou, in Macedonia, by Turks upon a Greek family of that village.

I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy of Mr. Blunt's report and of its inclosure, by which it would appear that, in this case at least, no religious or political feeling prompted the murder and robbery, which were the work of a band of Albanian brigands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 112.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Jocelyn.

Sir, *Salonica, February* 19, 1877.

WITH reference to your ciphered telegram calling for a report upon the alleged massacre at Bouloustrou, I hasten to inclose, in original, a despatch I received this morning from Dr. Pecchioli, Acting British Vice-Consul at Cavalla, giving some further information on the matter.

I beg leave to inclose Dr. Pecchioli's good opinion of Halil Agha; he is spoken of most highly by all who know him, and it was chiefly owing to his influence, firmness, and conciliatory conduct that public peace was preserved to the district of Xanti at a time when designing parties were doing their best to disturb it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 112.

Dr. Pecchioli to Consul Blunt.

(Extrait.) *Cavalla, le* 17 *Février*, 1877.

POUR ce qui regarde l'affaire de Bolustra, qui intéresse dans ce moment le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté, je crois nécessaire, M. le Consul, de convalider les renseignements donnés par cet office. Les meurtres ont été commises par des voleurs, et n'avaient aucun caractère politique ou religieux.

Bolustra est un village habité par des Chrétiens et entouré d'autres villages exclusivement habités par des Ottomans, auxquels s'ils l'auraient voulu, il aurait été possible de détruire Bolustra en trois heures.

Et si le fanatisme religieux poussait les Musulmans à détruire ce village Grec, et pas Bulgare, les malfaiteurs n'y seraient pas allés en nombre de cinq ou six.

Mais on oppose que les assassins n'étaient pas des voleurs, parcequ'ils n'ont pas volé, mais cela s'explique bien d'une autre manière; c'est que le village s'est mis sur la défensive et les voleurs ont du faire pour transporter un de leurs compagnons, gravement blessé.

Je ne crois pas non plus, comme on a dit, qu'une personne nommée Khalil Agha de Xanti se trouvasse mêlé dans l'affaire; ou s'il est vrai, le Musulman Khalil Agha ne doit pas en être déclaré responsable; parceque, soit dit pour la vérité, les sentiments humanitaires de Khalil sont universellement connus, et dans les moments critiques que le pays a traversé, loin de se montrer fanatique, il a été toujours le défenseur des Chrétiens.

No. 113.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 158.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 2, 1877.

ON the 19th ultimo, Mr. Consul Blunt reported to me by telegraph, and subsequently in a despatch, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, that two bands of Greek brigands having appeared on the north side of Mount Olympus, the authorities at Salonica had, in the absence of the Governor, determined to request the Porte to allow fifty Bashi-Bazouks to be employed against them.

I informed the Grand Vizier of their intention, and pointed out to his Highness how little such a measure was called for, and how likely it would be to lead to disturbances.

His Highness the next day received the request from Salonica, and immediately sent a peremptory order that irregulars were not to be employed.

I mention this to show the anxiety of Edhem Pasha to act in accordance with the promises which he has given us in this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure in No. 113.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Jocelyn.

Sir, *Salonica, February* 19, 1877.

WITH reference to my cyphered telegram of this date, reporting the sudden appearance of two bands of brigands, supposed to be Greeks, in the districts of Catterina and Veria, on this side of Mount Olympus, and the intention of the local authorities to employ Bashi-Bazouks in pursuit of these bands, I hasten to report that it would be most injudicious and dangerous to permit the authorities to resort to the services of Bashi-Bazouks (or Circassians, of whom there is a large village at Catterina) for police purposes in Macedonia, and to express the hope that the Porte will dispatch peremptory orders in the above sense to the Acting Governor-General of Salonica.

It is not yet certain if the appearance of the above bands is in any way connected with a political movement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 114.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 159.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 2, 1877.

I HAVE endeavoured to procure the information required by your Lordship's despatch No. 40 of the 24th of January last, respecting the colonization of Circassians in the Greek Provinces of Turkey.

I instructed Her Majesty's Consul at Salonica to report upon the subject, and I have just received a reply from him, copy of which I have the honour to transmit herewith, together with its inclosures.

When the insurrection in the Herzegovina and Bosnia began to assume a serious aspect, the Turkish Government ordered the greater number of troops then in garrison

throughout Thessaly to proceed to the north to act against the insurgents, and the Mussulman population of that Province becoming alarmed, requested the Porte to provide for their safety, and to take efficient measures against a rising of the Greeks around them.

This demand was complied with. Three or four battalions of regulars were dispatched at once to Thessaly, arms and munitions of war being at the same time provided for the Mussulman population.

These measures not being considered sufficient, it was determined to send colonies of Circassians, ostensibly to cultivate the ground, but in reality to increase the number of the Mahomedans, and by their warlike character and known loyalty to the Government, to insure the presence of a large body of additional troops to repress any attempt at insurrection.

The greater number of these colonists—Tartars and Circassians—were established on Government land, in the neighbourhood of the Greek frontier, and in consequence of the earnest remonstrance of the Hellenic Government, the Porte undertook that their number should not be increased; although it appears that, subsequently to this promise being given, sixty-four individuals were allowed to proceed thither as recently as last October.

The climate of Thessaly proving unhealthy, many of the colonists requested the Government to remove them elsewhere, but without success; and I understand that the number on the Greek frontier has not been materially modified since their first arrival.

Their conduct towards their Greek neighbours is described as tyrannical and lawless, many of them leading the life of brigands and pillaging the property of the industrious cultivators around their colonies, who are compelled to furnish them with assistance in sowing their land and in reaping their harvest.

Even murders are of frequent occurrence, and are generally attributed to these turbulent settlers.

In Thessaly, near the frontier, there are at present at Armiro 140 families, at Damaco, 5; at Orreaki, 40; at Balaboudy, 100; altogether 285 families.

In the interior, at Tricala, 15 families; at Larissa, 200; Tzouksani, 60; making the total for Thessaly 560 families.

About twelve years a colony of Circassians consisting of eighty families was sent to the village of Tehana, in the neighbourhood of Mount Olympus; land was given them by the Government, and the Greek population were compelled to furnish them with houses. In a few years this colony had encroached upon the neighbouring villages to such an extent that at present no less than 400 families are included in its limits.

These numbers, which I have obtained from an independent source, differ somewhat from those given by Mr. Vice-Consul Suter, but agree pretty nearly with those communicated to me by Safvet Pasha, who assured me the other day that in the district in question there were about 900 heads (meaning families) established.

In Epirus, I understand, that there are no Circassians; and their numbers in Macedonia are given by Mr. Blunt in the report herewith inclosed.

I have lately been informed that notwithstanding the intention of the Porte to admit of no further colonization of these objectionable tribes, a small number of them have quite recently been allowed to settle in some of the Albanian valleys. Their presence there is, perhaps, less open to objection than it would be elsewhere, as their neighbours being as lawless and warlike as themselves, will prove quite capable of resisting any undue encroachments upon their rights and property.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 114.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Jocelyn.

Salonica, February 24, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to your telegrams of the 7th and 8th instant, calling for information upon the number and conduct of the Circassian colonists in the Greek provinces of Turkey, I hasten to inclose herewith Mr. Vice-Consul Suter's report upon the subject.

I have not yet received Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney's report on the subject, but I am told that no Circassian or Crimean Tartar emigrants have been imported into Epirus.

In Macedonia I am assured that there are about 10,000 of these colonists, principally Circassians, distributed in the districts of Catterina, Serres, Nevrocop, and Drama, and I very much regret to say that their conduct is very lawless and turbulent, and gives rise to bitter complaints on the part of the rural classes of the inhabitants, both Christian and Mussulman, but I should add that one very rarely hears of complaints against the Crimean Tartars.

The Pasha of Salonica has taken some police measures against these Circassians in execution of the Vizirial order Sir H. Elliot obtained from the Porte in behalf of Mr. Biggo, the dragoman of this Consulate, but as yet no steps have been taken by the authorities to punish the authors of the robberies and other outrages which have been perpetrated on his property at Catterina, and beg leave to suggest that some more stringent orders should be sent to the Pasha upon this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. BLUNT.

P.S.—Mr. Biggo assures me that twelve Circassian families were brought here in November last in a Turkish steamer from Constantinople, and have been located in the Turkish village of Mavroma, in district of Langaza, about six hours from here.

J. B.

Inclosure 2 in No. 114.

Vice-Consul Suter to Consul Blunt.

Sir, *Larissa, February* 21, 1877.

IN reply to your despatch of the 12th instant, received the 19th, with two inclosures, which, as you desire, I return herewith, requiring me to report to you upon the number and the conduct of the Circassian emigrants in Thessaly, I would beg your reference to the details which I had the honour to transmit to you at various intervals during last year, and especially to those furnished under date of the 21st June and of the 1st November.

In the statement last mentioned, while giving particulars of the estimated number of the emigrants, and of the partial distribution of them effected up to that time, I pointed out that fifty families, about 200 individuals, men, women, and children, of these were Crimean Tartars, and that an equal portion of them was composed of natives of Daghistan, who, it is assumed, should not be confounded with the so-called "Cherkess," or the Circassians proper. It may not be irrelevant to renote here that the local authorities then asserted, and persist in affirming still, that no importation has ever taken place of emigrants of the last-mentioned category; that all are Dagistances, who, in spite of deplorable evidence of the contrary, they contend are unlike the others, and to be industrious and honest, and of peaceful and orderly habits.

I inclose a note, compiled from information which I have sought to obtain from the most reliable sources, and which I believe to be strictly accurate, of the numbers and the locations of the Tartar and the Daghistance colonists at present in Thessaly.

The introduction of these strangers always has been viewed here, to say the least, with the greatest dissatisfaction. Most of them are distributed upon the "Imlaks" or crown lands in the different districts mentioned, where, when none existed, villages or hutting have been constructed for their accommodation; and cattle and tillage implements provided to them at the Government expense, which they must refund from the produce of the crops. As a general rule the Tartars are not ill-spoken of, or considered to be intolerable by their neighbours. Not so, however, is the case as regards the Daghistance or Circassian settlers, whose thievish propensities, unruly conduct, and violent proceedings, often involving serious consequences, not unfrequently bloodshed, are subject of constant complaint from every quarter and from all classes of the population. Although it is probable that Hellenic influence sometimes may cause such complaints from Christians to be exaggerated, they always are but too well founded. Mahommedans are equally frequent complainants; and last summer, when a section of the emigrants was quartered at Velestino, a village all but exclusively Turkish, their plundering courses and lawless behaviour compelled their transfer elsewhere, in order to prevent the alarming feuds which were threatened with its inhabitants.

In short, I am to repeat, as before reported to you, that the opinion universally entertained here is, that the colonization in Thessaly of Daghistances or Circassians is

greatly to be deplored, as having introduced into it a lawless, disorderly, turbulent, and, in every other respect, most objectionable element, which is calculated to create constant disquietude among a peaceful population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HY. SUTER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 114.

Memorandum.

THE total number of the Tartar and the Daghestanee or Circassian colonists, is estimated, as nearly approximately as possible, at something over 900 individuals, and these are distributed as follows, viz. :—

		Individuals.
In the district of Tricala	.. ..	110
" " Carditza	.. ..	260
" " Armyro	.. ..	570
" " Larissa	.. ..	90
" " Volo	.. ..	70
		900

But, by an early opportunity, a detailed statement will be given of the numbers of Tartars and Daghestanees or Circassians respectively, and of the respective villages of each district in which they severally are located, particulars which it has not been possible to obtain in time for this occasion.

Larissa, February 21, 1877.

No. 115.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 11.)

(No. 160. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 2, 1877.

ONE of the most important of the reforms to be carried out by the Turkish Government is, without doubt, that affecting the mixed police or gendarmerie, which, in its present condition, contributes so largely to the oppressive character of the provincial government in European Turkey.

The Porte, as your Lordship is aware, applied to the Governments of France and of Switzerland for officers to enable them to reorganize their police upon a European model, but in both cases without success; the French refusing to give assistance to the Porte in a matter which formed one of the proposals of the Conference, unless it were done conjointly with the other Guaranteeing Powers, and the Swiss declining on the ground that a compliance with the request would involve a breach of their military regulations.

The Porte then determined to take other measures, and has now applied to Colonel Valentine Baker, late of Her Majesty's 10th Hussars, to undertake the task of organizing a corps which is to replace the present one.

He has had several interviews both with the Grand Vizier and the Minister of Police on the subject, and he appears to have good hopes of coming to an arrangement.

I requested him to furnish me with a sketch of what he proposed to do in the way of organization, and he has, in reply, sent me the Memorandum of which I have the honour to inclose a copy.

Although admitting the necessity of employing Christians as well as Mussulmans in the force, he is not inclined to allow this consideration to interfere with its efficiency, remarking that it is not to be expected that the Bulgarians, who have hitherto been kept unarmed, will prove as good soldiers as the existing Mussulman police, at all events until the training of recruits has been placed on a more satisfactory footing than at present.

He considers that the force to be employed should be as nearly on the model of the Irish constabulary as the circumstances will admit, the duties of both in preserving the peace between factions animated by religious animosity being very similar; and the special organization of the Irish police admitting of speedy and effective concentration of large bodies of men to repress disorders at any given place.

This plan, if carried out, would put an end at once to the necessity for using irregular troops; and the other duties which would devolve upon Colonel Baker's corps would

prove a salutary check upon the conduct of the Governors and Mutessarifs in the provinces.

Colonel Baker fears that the question of pay may offer some difficulty, but trusts that, should the present Grand Vizier remain long enough in office, his scheme, even though considerably modified, may be substantially adopted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

P.S.—Colonel Baker has requested that, for the present, at all events, the above information may be regarded as confidential.

N. J.

Inclosure in No. 115.

Colonel Baker to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Constantinople, March* 2, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to forward a short sketch of the zaptieh system of the Ottoman Empire, together with the more important improvements in that system which suggest themselves to me as immediately necessary.

The zaptieh force of the whole Turkish dominions now numbers about 55,000 men, of which number about one-third are mounted.

The force is organized in regiments, and to each vilayet a regiment is attached.

There is no organization higher than that of regiments.

No system of inspection exists, and there are no means of detecting abuses which may creep into the force.

No system of instruction exists for either officers or men even at the regimental head-quarters, and there is no printed book of regulations detailing the organization of the force and defining the respective duties of its members.

There are no reserves available by which any vilayet or district could be strengthened in case of emergency. It is the want of such a reserve which has led to the unfortunate practice of calling up Redifs or Bashi-Bazouks in cases of serious disturbance.

The regiments have no fixed number of battalions, but vary according to the extent or population of the vilayet.

Battalions in the same manner have no fixed number of companies.

Each regiment is commanded by a Colonel. The battalions and companies by captains. No other grades of officers exist.

Each regiment is paid directly by the vilayet to which it belongs. There is a paymaster attached to each regiment, and a sub-paymaster to each battalion. Nominal rolls are sent in monthly, but no check exists upon the correctness of these returns.

The pay of the men varies according to the vilayet. It is settled by the Bureau Centrale at Constantinople according to the cheapness or dearness of the respective localities.

A ration of bread is issued daily.

Recruiting is by voluntary enlistment. Men who belong to the Redif (or reserve) are accepted in preference to other applicants. Applicants must have a certificate of character, and be over 20 years of age, and not over 45 for the infantry, and 50 for the mounted branch. Men, however, are rarely taken over 30 years of age. Service is for two years, with power of re-enlistment.

Mounted men bring and own their own horses, receiving a higher rate of pay.

Recruiting has hitherto been confined to the Mahommedan population, but the admission of Christians in relative proportion to the creeds of the vilayets is contemplated.

Arms are supplied from Constantinople, and should consist of a repeating Winchester rifle and a revolver pistol.

Clothing is sometimes supplied from Constantinople, and sometimes furnished by the vilayet under the superintendence of a Regimental Board of Officers. It ought to be issued annually.

The duties of the force are uniform, and there is no distinction such as gendarmerie and police.

The following appear to be the cardinal defects of the system, and the changes which should be adopted to correct them:—

1. A distinction should be made between police and gendarmerie: the one being organized as a civil and the other as a military body.

2. The latter force should be divided into two corps, with a divisional and brigade system of inspection. The inspectors should be carefully selected from ex-officers of the British army, Irish constabulary, or Indian or Colonial police forces.

3. Regimental depôts of instruction should be formed, where all recruits and newly-appointed officers should be carefully trained.

4. A book of regulations defining organization and duties should be compiled.

5. A considerable reserve of highly-trained gendarmerie should be formed at Constantinople, or in some central locality, ready for any emergency at any point.

6. A central depôt of instruction should be formed under the superintendence of British ex-officers of the corps already named, and assisted by non-commissioned officers selected from the Irish constabulary. At this depôt selected men should be trained as regimental and battalion instructors.

There are many further points of detail in which reforms would be necessary, and to which I will subsequently call your attention.

It would in my opinion be unwise to press upon the Ottoman Government at present excessive changes that would certainly be rejected, and which might lead to a reaction in their present desire to avail themselves of the foreign element, and to admit Christians into the gendarmerie and police.

I have but little doubt that the changes suggested will be accepted, and, if so, they would sow the seeds of certain progress in the future.

I have, &c.
(Signed) V. BAKER.

No. 116.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 11.)

(No. 162.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 2, 1877.

WITH reference to last paragraph of your Lordship's telegram of the 18th ultimo, desiring me to obtain assurances as to the nature of the measures to be proposed to the Chamber of Deputies, I have the honour to inclose herewith a report from M. Dragoman Mariniteh, who has obtained from Djendet Pasha, the Minister of the Interior, whatever his Excellency could communicate on the subject.

In addition to the report, I have ascertained that the following proposals will be laid before the Chamber:—

Each canton will elect a Council consisting, according to its extent, of either six or twelve members, to manage the special affairs of that district.

It will meet regularly once a month, and oftener if required, to deliberate upon questions of agriculture, public works, national education, assessment of taxes, and collection of the revenue for State purposes.

A President and two assistants will be elected by the Council, who will be responsible for the execution of its decisions, the due collection of fiscal revenues, and the police of the district, should no special officer be stationed there.

Every village will have one or two "mouktars," or executive officers, to carry out the orders received from the superior authorities.

These shall, by right of their office, be members of the Council of the village, consisting of the priests and other persons of influence resident therein.

An Administrative Council will preside in the capital of each vilayet or province. Six of its members will be elected by the inhabitants, and the rest will be composed of the Mustechar, or Counsellor of the Governor, the Controller of Finance, the Director of Public Works, the Mussulman Judge, and the clerical heads of the different communities, who will sit by right of their offices.

The Council will deliberate upon the administration of the province, upon its finances, its politics, and its agricultural development, but will not participate in judicial matters, either criminal or civil.

The General Provincial Assembly of the capital of the Province will be elected for a term of four years, and will be composed of members chosen from each sandjak in accordance with the Electoral Law.

Its duties will be to provide for the maintenance of roads and public works throughout the province, the establishment of Savings' Banks, the discussion of proposals made by the Governor for the development of industry and commerce, and of the general capabilities of the vilayet.

It will discuss and determine upon all questions relative to public works and

instruction submitted to it by the Cantonal Councils, and will have the power to examine into the collection of taxes, and to interfere actively in suppressing abuses arising therefrom.

The question of the Commission of Control, one of the most important on the list of reforms, has lately been repeatedly discussed by the Council of Ministers, but I understand that no decision respecting its formation or its attributes has yet been arrived at.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure in No. 116.

M. Mariniti to Mr. Jocelyn.

Sir, *Pera, February* 28, 1877.

IN order to follow up the steps taken by you, in conformity with the Earl of Derby's despatch of the 15th instant, with the Grand Vizier and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, I waited yesterday on his Excellency Djevdet Pasha, the Minister of the Interior, in order to obtain from him satisfactory explanations and assurances with regard to the measures to be presented to the Chamber of Deputies.

No sooner had Djevdet Pasha become aware of the object of my visit, than he showed every desire to reply to my inquiries.

His Excellency, before enumerating the measures which the Government intended submitting to the Chamber, made some remarks, of which the tenor is as follows:

"I have just come from the palace, where I have been working with the Sultan. I can assure you that His Majesty desires nothing better than to see the Constitution put in force, as both he and we rightly consider it to be the best guarantee for the welfare of the people."

The object of the Sublime Porte is simply to carry out the liberal views so often expressed by the Sultan.

The Imperial Government is really beginning to introduce reforms, based on the charter which now confirms those promulgated by the "Tanzimat" and the different "Hatts" which came after it.

In justice to the memory of Rachid Pasha, Ali Pasha, and Fuad Pasha, one must admit that the country owes to them whatever progress it has made. Unhappily, I am free to confess that many improvements which they projected simply remained dead letters.

Those who are now at the head of affairs are bent on carrying out the reforms they promulgate, and will promise no more than they can perform.

England may rest assured that we shall do our best to satisfy her legitimate demands. We desire the prosperity of the races we have to govern, and we shall not shrink from any sacrifice in order to carry out our views.

We have begun already by naming Christian "Mustechars" for the Vilayets of Adrianople, Bosnia, and the Danube, and this innovation will be extended to the Vilayets of Yanina and Salonica, in order to satisfy the populations of these two provinces as well as those of the others.

The Ottoman Parliament will take into consideration a project of law (inclosed herewith) respecting the subdivision of the provinces into cantons (Nahiés, Mudirliks), and which is based on the principle of decentralization proposed by the Conference; but in view of the importance of this territorial devision, the Ministry of the Interior, without waiting for the opening of the Chamber, has telegraphed to the Valis to commence this subdivision immediately.

The Parliament will further discuss the following measures:—

A Project of Law defining the attributes and powers of the Governors-General of the provinces.

A Project of Law respecting municipalities.

One respecting civil procedure.

A press law.

As a complete law respecting criminal procedure cannot be got ready this Session, Parliament will only discuss this question during the October Session; for the present, merely a law respecting the inviolability of domicile will be taken into consideration.

An electoral law to regulate future elections to the Assembly.

A law to define the powers and responsibilities of the different public offices.

A law to regulate the conduct, duties, and immovibility of employés in general.

A law to settle the attributions of the Chamber itself.

The Budgets of the different Ministries.

Such financial and other laws as can be prepared for the opening of the Chamber.

His Majesty the Sultan, at his own expense, has founded a school destined to furnish for the future civil officers up to the rank of Mutessarif, inclusive.

Every effort will be made to get every possible advantage out of this establishment. In the meantime, in order to meet the actual requirements of the Government, the Commission, which is now sitting at the Ministry of the Interior, and which is composed of the Mustechars of the different Departments, without awaiting the meeting of the Chamber, is taking the greatest pains to select the Governors and Kaïmakams properly.

Persons thus selected will receive a regular commission, and cannot be dismissed without proper cause.

Independently of the laws destined to reorganize the different branches of the administration of justice, the Government undertakes faithfully to carry out all measures which the Chamber may propose in order to ameliorate the actual condition of the Tribunals of the Empire.

Finally, the Government is occupying itself with the formation of a police force, and hopes to reconcile the wishes of Europe with the wants of the country.

"Such," said Djevdet Pasha, "is the sum of the measures to be discussed by the Chamber. The time between the promulgation of the Constitution and the meeting of the Chamber has been too short to allow of the Government's doing more. We sincerely hope that England will take this circumstance into serious consideration, and will further bear in mind the goodwill and sincerity which animate the Porte, and the numerous difficulties against which it has had to contend and still contends, and which have to a certain extent paralyzed its action, and have proved a stumbling block to it on the path of reforms."

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGO MARIOTTS.

No. 116.[3]

Pro-Memoria communicated to Lord Derby by Count Schouvaloff, March 11.

(Private and Confidential.)

LE but du voyage du Général Ignatiew a été de fournir des éclaircissements sur la pensée intime du Cabinet Impérial et de faciliter la voie d'une solution pacifique.

Après les sacrifices que s'est imposée la Russie—la stagnation de son industrie et de son commerce, les frais énormes de la mobilisation de 500,000 hommes—elle ne peut se retirer ni renvoyer ses troupes sans avoir obtenu quelque résultat palpable en vue de l'amélioration du sort des populations Chrétiennes.

L'Empereur veut sincèrement la paix, mais non pas une paix à tout prix.

Les Cabinets Européens préparent en ce moment des réponses à la Circulaire Russe; nous ne les préjugeons pas, mais prévoyons qu'elles peuvent offrir un grand danger. Si ces réponses ne sont pas identiques, quelle serait la situation du Cabinet Impérial? A l'opinion de laquelle devrait-il se ranger? L'accord Européen, si heureusement établi à la Conférence, ne serait-il pas rompu par suite de nuances que les différents Cabinets établiraient dans leurs réponses? Enfin, si l'un des Cabinets proposait à la Russie de reprendre sa liberté d'action, ne serait-ce point une cause déterminante pour rechercher la solution, soit dans l'entente directe avec la Porte, soit par la voie des armes?

Dans ces conditions il paraît au Cabinet Impérial que la solution la plus pratique, la meilleure pour assurer le maintien de la paix générale, serait la signature par les Puissances d'un Protocole qui mettrait, pour ainsi dire, fin à l'incident.

Ce Protocole pourrait être signé à Londres par les Représentants des Grandes Puissances et sous l'inspiration directe du Cabinet de St. James.

Ce Protocole ne contiendrait rien d'autre que les principes et les bases dont s'inspirent les Gouvernements pour répondre à la Circulaire Russe. Il serait à désirer qu'il affirme le caractère Européen de la situation et constate que l'amélioration du sort des Chrétiens continuera à être l'objet de la sollicitude de tous les Cabinets.

La Porte ayant déclaré à maintes reprises qu'elle s'engageait à introduire des réformes, il serait désirable de les énumérer sur la base de la Circulaire de Safvet Pacha. De cette manière il n'y aurait pas de malentendu dans la suite sur les promesses de la Turquie.

Puisque un terme de quelques mois ne suffirait pas pour accomplir ces réformes, il serait préférable de ne point préciser de limites. Le terme d'un an ferait croire en Russie que l'armée n'est remise sur pied de paix que provisoirement et qu'elle doit se retrouver

prête à l'expiration du terme. Il dépendra de l'accord de toutes les Puissances de déterminer si la Turquie avance dans son œuvre de régénération d'une manière satisfaisante.

Le Protocole devrait mentionner que l'Europe continuera à veiller par l'organe de ses Représentants Diplomatiques à l'exécution progressive des réformes.

Si l'espoir des Puissances se trouvait encore une fois déçu et si la condition des sujets Chrétiens n'était pas améliorée, elles se réservent d'aviser en commun à l'action qu'elles jugeront indispensable pour assurer le bien-être des populations Chrétiennes et les intérêts de la paix générale.

L'Ambassadeur de Russie espère que Lord Derby appréciera la modération et l'esprit de conciliation dont s'inspire le Cabinet Impérial en énonçant ses pensées, qui n'ont rien d'incompatible avec les principes de la politique Anglaise. Leur application assurerait le maintien de la paix générale.

Chesham House, le $\frac{27 \text{ Février}}{11 \text{ Mars}}$, 1877.

No. 117.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 12. Political.)

My Lord, *Beyrout, February 20, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Ottoman transport "Babil," Captain Mehemet Bey, arrived at Beyrout on the 29th ultimo, and left on the 7th instant for Constantinople, with 300 men and horses of the regular artillery of the 5th corps d'armée, these men and horses, with those whose departure on board the "Assir" I reported in my despatch No. 8 of the 30th ultimo, form two battalions of the regular artillery of the 5th corps, the guns belonging to which, however, remain in Syria.

The Ottoman transport "Malakoff," Captain Illich, arrived at Beyrout on the 8th, and left on the 10th instant for Constantinople, with one battalion of Redifs of Damascus, numbering 1,000 men and 30 officers.

The Ottoman frigate "Sélimié," Captain Ismail Bey, arrived at Beyrout on the 11th instant, and left for Constantinople on the 18th, with the 4th regiment of regular cavalry of the 5th corps, numbering 500 men, 25 officers, and 570 horses.

The transport "Chereff," Captain Ahmed Bey, arrived at Beyrout on the 12th instant, and left on the 19th instant, for Constantinople, with one battalion of Redifs of Beyrout, about 900 strong, and 30 officers.

I am informed that two transports left Acre last week with Redifs, but I have not received any details respecting them; they would, however, probably be two battalions from the southern districts.

The Italian gun-vessel "Scilla," Captain Rossi, three guns, arrived at Beyrout on the 18th instant from Smyrna and Sarnaca, and left yesterday for Alexandria.

The Ottoman gun-vessel "Beyrout," which has for some time been stationed on the coast of Syria, left on the 18th instant for Constantinople, to convoy the "Sélimié."

The French cruizer "Ducouedic" is at Beyrout, and Her Majesty's ship "Torch" is at Alexandretta.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 118.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 13. Political.)

My Lord, *Beyrout, February 22, 1877.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 12 of the 20th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consular Agent Finzi, reporting the embarcation of troops at St. Jean d'Acre.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 118.

Consular Agent Finzi to Consul-General Eldridge.

Acre, le 18 Février, 1877.

M. le Consul-Général,

J'AI l'honneur de vous faire connaître que le soir du 13 courant, est parti d'ici la cavalerie régulière pour Constantinople sur les deux bateaux Turcs "Saïf" et "Chaker," consistants en sept squadrons de 650 hommes avec 650 chevaux; le restant du régiment se trouve à Damas avec son artillerie, qui probablement partira voie Beyrout.

Sur les dits bateaux on a embarqué 85 petits canons en bronze, qui étaient sur les démolies fortifications de Caïffa, bons, je crois, pour fondre; 40 caisses de poudre, et 30,000 oeques du vieux plomb à fusil.

Maintenant se trouvent à Acre 1,200 Redifs, encore en bourgeois, pour manque d'habillements militaires, du 3me ban, qu'on attend de compléter le nombre de 1,600 pour les faire partir. Partant ces Redifs, ne restera à Acre que les 220 hommes d'artillerie qui forment la garnison de la forteresse.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) M. D'A. FINZI.

P.S.—La tranquillité publique est parfaite.

M. D'A. F.

No. 119.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 14. Political.)

Beyrout, February 26, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, reporting under what circumstances I undertook to transmit money to certain Redifs of Beyrout who are serving at Scutari in Albania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 119.

Consul-General Eldridge to Mr. Jocelyn.

Beyrout, February 26, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to you the following circumstances:—

On the 15th instant I received from Mr. Green, Her Majesty's Consul at Scutari, a private letter, dated the 29th ultimo, in which he says that "some men of the Beyrout Redifs called on me yesterday, and asked me if I would consent to receive money for them through you, and which their relatives would pay to you for transmission to me. I said that I should be happy to be of use to them, provided you, too, would mind the trouble of the matter."

As I saw no objection to my co-operating with Mr. Green in thus assisting the Beyrout Redifs, I caused it to be known, through my own cavasses, who are all Beyrout Mussulmans, that I should be very glad to be the means of transmitting any sums which the relatives of the Redifs might wish to send, on the condition (in order to prevent any complications of exchange) that the payments should be made to me in sagli, at which rate it would be paid to the recipients at Scutari.

In consequence of this announcement, on the 23rd instant, the day on which the last Austrian steamer left Beyrout, a number of highly respectable Mussulmans of Beyrout presented themselves at my office that I might transmit money for them to their relatives who are serving as Redifs at Scutari.

The amount received by me was 175 medjedies in silver, and 4 Turkish pounds in gold, for which I inclosed bills to Mr. Green on the Imperial Ottoman Bank at Constantinople. This sum is to be distributed amongst seventeen persons serving at Scutari in the Redif at that place.

I should not have troubled you with a report on this matter had not what I have done been considerably commented upon, in general most favourably to the Mussulmans; but as others may represent the matter in an entirely different light, I consider it my duty to report it to you, having been myself simply actuated in the case by sentiments of

humanity, while, at the same time, I cannot help drawing your attention to the confidence which the Mussulmans of Syria possess in Mr. Green, who was well known and respected by them, as well as by other denominations, whilst resident in this country as Vice-Consul at Damascus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 120.

Acting Consul-General St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 19. Political.)

Belgrade, February 24, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to the case of a Jew having been elected a member of the Great Skoupstchina on the 20th instant, as I informed your Lordship by telegraph the day after, I have the honour to report that in a conversation on the subject with the Foreign Minister, I asked him how it was that the popularity of a Jew was so great at Belgrade that he should be elected member of the Skoupstchina, especially as one of the six conditions demanded by the Porte in proposing terms of peace, that the Jews should enjoy civil and political rights, had been left in abeyance until the wishes of the National Assembly could be ascertained.

M. Ristitch frankly informed me that the Jew in question was not elected on account of his popularity; but that, owing to an afterthought, the Government had deemed it politic to prove to the world the religious toleration existing in this country, and at the same time were desirous to facilitate matters at Constantinople. I then pointed out to him the anomaly of the case, as the Jew, though holding civil and political rights was, according to the Constitution, debarred from possessing real property, and from settling in the country.

M. Ristitch replied that in the course of time, when the existing prejudices against the Jews would, he hoped, to a certain extent be removed, there would be no difficulty in extending to Spanish Jews, whose ancestors had settled in this town centuries ago, and who have now become Servian subjects, the same privileges enjoyed by the Servians themselves.

I then observed that he did not appear to make the same difficulties as the Roumanians, whose constant fear was that the Jews there, if in possession of the same rights, would in a short time rule the country. He replied that such could never be the case here, as the native Jewish population was not increasing, and only amounted to about 1,200, and that owing to the financial proclivities of that race, a little Jewish element in the Assembly would be desirable.

With regard to the Polish Jews he appeared to entertain the same antipathy as the Roumanians, and said that such privileges could not be extended to them, as they all held foreign passports, and were consequently aliens.

It is the opinion here that by naming a Jew at this moment a member of the National Assembly the Government acted wisely.

Time alone will show whether M. Ristitch's scheme will be conscientiously carried out, or prove abortive.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 121.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 44. Political.)

Cairo, February 27, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 36 of the 15th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a statement that has been given to me by Chérif Pasha, showing the exact numbers of the Egyptian troops sent to Turkey.

No cavalry has gone, and only one battery of artillery. No reinforcements have been sent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. VIVIAN.

Inclosure in No. 121.

État du Personnel de l'Armée Egyptienne envoyée en Turquie.

Trois régiments d'infanterie	..	..	..	..
Batterie d'artillerie	..	..	..	..
État major et officiers d'ordonnance..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	..	..	..	..
Généraux de Division	2	..	..	2
Généraux de Brigade	3	..	..	3
Colonels	2	1	2	5
Lieutenant-Colonels	3	1	..	4
Commandants	12	..	..	12
Major d'un Bataillon	10	1	2	13
Capitaines de Porte-drapeaux	3	..	..	3
Capitaines Adjoints d'un Régiment	76	3	1	80
Lieutenants	72	7	..	79
Sous-Lieutenants	74	8	..	82
Aspirants	12	3	..	15
Sergents-Majors	131	14	6	151
Sergents-Fourriers	70	2	..	72
Sergents	375	55	..	430
Caporaux	899	83	..	982
Soldats	6,078	112	..	6,190
Serg.-m.-Majors Trompettes	7	..	..	7
Sergents-Trompettes	5	..	..	5
Caporaux Trompettes	27	2	..	29
Trompettes	168	11	..	179
Chefs Armuriers	..	4	..	4
Armuriers et autres ouvriers	8	18	..	26
Lieutenants Médecins	3	..	..	3
Sergents Fourriers Médecins	3	..	..	3
Sergents Médecins	6	..	..	6
Caporaux Musiciens	11	..	..	11
Soldats Musiciens	25	..	..	25
Médecins Vétérinaires	3	..	..	3
Pharmaciens et Médecins Capitaines	3	1	..	4
Pharmaciens et Médecins Lieutenants	4	2	..	6
Chefs Infirmiers	3	1	..	4
Infirmiers	9	1	..	10
Maîtres Tailleurs	3	..	..	3
Total	2,121	362	11	2,504

No. 122.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 12.)

(No. 20. Political.)

My Lord, *Cettigné, February* 26, 1877.

PRINCE Nicholas told me this morning that, in view of the approaching expiration of the armistice, he had given the strictest orders to his commanders to make no movement nor commit any act that could be interpreted in a hostile sense, and to confine themselves to defence if attacked by the Turks.

I observed to His Highness that this latter contingency seemed to me in the last degree improbable; the Porte had of its own accord made overtures for peace, and consequently would take care not to prejudice the negotiations by any act of hostility. I pointed out, moreover, that the Turkish forces had been so diminished in strength, both in Albania and the Herzegovina, that Montenegro had really nothing to fear in either direction.

The Prince agreed in this; but when I observed that the first thing his delegates would have to do on arriving at Constantinople would be to arrange for the prolongation of the armistice, he gave me to understand that Montenegro would not propose such a prolongation, hinting at the same time that it would be advisable that the Porte should be induced to do so.

I telegraphed the substance of this conversation at once to your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 123.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 12.)

(No. 21. Political.)

My Lord, *Cettigné, February* 27, 1877.

IN a recent despatch to your Lordship (No. 18 of the 18th instant), I adverted to the chances of success on which Prince Nicholas might count in the event of the continuance of the war; and although I know that Mr. Consul Green keeps your Lordship fully informed of all that is passing in North Albania, I think it as well to add to his reports my own conviction that the Prince is neglecting no means of gaining over to his side the already disaffected tribes of that region.

I have lately seen here emissaries from the Pilati and Grasnié districts; and though, of course, the Prince will not communicate to me his dealings with these people, it needs no spirit of divination to understand what is their business in Cettigné.

Your Lordship will recollect that at the date of the fall of fortress Medun, I expressed my apprehensions of the effect that that event would produce in North Albania, and I am sorry to say that the ill-advised conduct of the Turkish authorities at Scutari, and especially of Dervish Pasha, the most fatuous and the most obstinate of all the Turkish Generals, who, during the last campaign, have been immolating the soldiers under their command, there seems to be every probability that the smouldering embers of Albanian discontent will shortly be fanned into the blaze of open insurrection. Given the previous long-continued want of cordiality between the Catholic Albanians and the Orthodox Montenegrins, it is really lamentable that the imptitude and arrogance of a swashbuckler like Dervish Pasha should have driven the Mirdites and the cognate tribes into an alliance which will completely paralyse the operations of the Turks in the vilayet of Scutari.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 124.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 12.)

(No. 22. Political.)

My Lord, *Cettigné, March* 1, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of telegrams which have been exchanged between the Porte and Montenegro respecting the prolongation of the armistice.

Prince Nicholas made some strong remarks this morning upon the want of courtesy displayed by the Porte in this communication, and, as your Lordship will see, makes no reference in his reply to the duration of the armistice as proposed by the Grand Vizier.

The Prince observed in conversation with my Austrian colleague and myself that he supposed that the prospect of concluding peace with Servia had caused the Turks to forget their usual politeness towards Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 124.

The Grand Vizier to the Prince of Montenegro.

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le $\frac{15}{27}$ Février*, 1877.

LES délégués de votre Altesse n'étant pas encore arrivés à Constantinople, il a été jugé nécessaire de prolonger l'armistice, qui expire le 28 courant.

Nos commandants militaires viennent d'être informés que l'armistice en cours a été prolongé jusqu'au 21 Mars, nouveau style, exclusivement, et je prie votre Altesse de me faire savoir que de son côté, elle a donné des ordres en conséquence.

Inclosure 2 in No. 124.

The Prince of Montenegro to the Grand Vizier.

(Télégraphique.) *Cettigné, ce 1 Mars*, 1877.

EN réponse à la dépêche de votre Altesse du 27 Février, j'ai l'honneur de l'informer que, prévoyant l'arrivée de mes délégués un jour ou deux après l'expiration de l'armistice, j'avais déjà lors de leur départ enjoint strictement à tous mes commandants de ne commettre ni de permettre aucun acte d'hostilité quelconque sans un ordre spécial de ma part.

No. 125.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 23. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, March 1*, 1877.

WITH reference to my preceding despatch, No. 22 of this day's date, respecting the notification by the Porte that the armistice has been prolonged to the 21st instant exclusively, and to the remarks made by Prince Nicholas on the want of courtesy displayed by the Grand Vizier in making this notification in a peremptory manner, I have the honour to state, that on the receipt of the telegram from Constantinople of the 27th ultimo, the Prince telegraphed to Belgrade to ask what reply Prince Milan proposed to give.

His Highness this morning requested my Austrian colleague, the Russian Secretary, and myself to come to the Palace, and then informed us that M. Ristich had telegraphed that the Skuptchina had accepted the proposal of the Porte to conclude peace on the basis of the *status quo ante*, and the withdrawal of the Turkish and Servian armies from the positions which they occupy within twelve days after the ratification of the Treaty. M. Ristich added that Prince Milan awaited the consent of his ally, Prince Nicholas, before sanctioning the Treaty.

His Highness said, that under these circumstances, he proposed answering the Grand Vizier in the sense of the telegram, copy of which is inclosed in my immediately preceding despatch (Inclosure No. 2), and the text of which was drawn up in our presence by his Secretary; and I confess that I was glad to find that his irritation against the Porte did not lead him to show his resentment in a more pronounced manner.

In telegraphing to your Lordship this morning I thought it was my duty to lay stress upon the susceptibility of the Prince in regard to the method of the Porte's dealings with him, because I foresee that if the Ottoman Government think that they can now afford to treat him cavalierly, and behave towards him in consequence with scant courtesy, His

Highness is quite capable of listening to the promptings of wounded dignity, and of breaking off the negotiations at a moment's notice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 126.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 24. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, March 1*, 1877.

IN discussing this morning the determination come to by Servia to conclude peace, Prince Nicholas remarked that it seemed to him that it would be rather precipitate on her part to sign a Treaty without waiting to see the reception with which the Montenegrin Delegates would meet at Constantinople; and that if M. Christich and his associates were so to commit themselves before the arrival of Messrs. Petrovich and Radonich, they would, he thought, feel some compunction at the sight of the urgent instructions given to his Representatives to act in loyal concert with the Servian Envoys.

Although the Prince expressed himself in this sense, I do not think that he was at all unprepared for such action on the part of Servia; nor that he really has any idea that Prince Milan has any other choice than to make peace on whatever terms he can get. Neither do I imagine that he really expects that his Princely ally will delay his ratification of the Treaty to suit Montenegro. But up to the present moment His Highness continues to maintain the firm language which he has hitherto consistently held, and in speaking of the possibility that Turkey may at once transfer the troops now in Servia to the Herzegovina and Albania, he said this morning that, rather than make a dishonourable peace, he would carry on the struggle single-handed.

He has telegraphed this evening to Belgrade in very calm language, as I am informed, that in view of the prejudice which would be caused to Montenegrin interests by Servia's separate action, he cannot assent to Prince Milan's ratification of the decision of the Skuptchina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 127.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 25. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, March 1*, 1877.

FOR some days past the telegraphic correspondence between my Austrian colleague and Count Andrassy has been constant and voluminous.

Colonel Thömmel has told me that he has been strictly forbidden to communicate to me the nature of his recent conferences with the Prince, and could only say that they were of a painful character, and that they ensued from the direct orders of his Imperial Majesty. The Prince on his part has told me that he has a vexatious dispute with the Austrian Government, in which he thinks himself badly treated, and that Colonel Thömmel has requested him to keep the matter a secret from me.

Speculation in such cases is always very unprofitable, but it may perhaps be as well that I should state that, from certain expressions of which my Austrian colleague has made use in recent conversations with me, I am inclined to think that, either he has had to tell the Prince very plainly that Austria will never tolerate any large annexations by Montenegro of territory in the Herzegovina, or, that he has been instructed to remonstrate with His Highness in regard to certain mysterious dealings with members of the Dalmatian Diet, and with Government officials along the Littoral.

I know that he has spoken to His Highness respecting an insurgent band in the Sutorina, between whom and the Austrian soldiers on the frontier a serious collision might at any moment occur.

I have &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 128.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 12.)

(No. 26. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, March* 1, 1877.

I THINK it as well to report to your Lordship that Prince Nicholas has spent two afternoons in the study of the papers on the affairs of Turkey, recently laid before Parliament.

I understand from his Secretary that although certain passages of my despatches have rather startled him, he is on the whole satisfied at what he has seen, and my Austrian colleague tells me that His Highness calls me "a very honest reporter."

The Prince has not hitherto had many opportunities of seeing his own conversations in print, and, therefore, a Blue Book is more interesting to him, especially at this critical moment, than to diplomatists and statesmen who have become accustomed to be interviewed and reported upon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 129.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 12.)

(No. 196.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February* 27, 1877.

I LOST no time in executing the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, by communicating to Baron Orczy a Memorandum of its substance, and requesting that the Austrian Consul at Scutari might be instructed to support Mr. Consul Green, in endeavouring to prevent hostilities between Dervish Pasha and the Mirdites.

His Excellency said that a telegram had been received from M. Wassitch, dated the 20th instant, from which it appeared probable that a conflict had already taken place, as Dervish Pasha was evidently seeking for an opportunity of re-establishing his military reputation; but his Excellency believes that if he has endeavoured to invade Mirditia, he will have met with as signal a defeat as when he attempted to penetrate into Montenegro.

Baron Orczy said that he is alone responsible for the present difficulties, and that it is not to be expected that any representations on the part of the Consuls will induce Bib Doda to place confidence in his promises, or to make any concession until the Mirdite delegates imprisoned at Scutari have been released.

I urged, however, that the intervention of the Consuls, by moderating the pretensions of the Mirdites, and giving at the same time moral weight to the promises of the Pasha, might still effect a pacific arrangement; and his Excellency said that he would submit the Memorandum which I left with him to Count Andrassy, who would probably accede to the proposal which it contained.

When I left the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, I met Count Andrassy returning to it, and I acquainted him verbally with the communication which I had made to Baron Orczy, and pressed upon him the expediency of complying with the wishes of Her Majesty's Government.

He said that he had always recommended Bib Doda and the Mirdites not to make common cause with Montenegro, or to give any provocation to the Porte; and as he entirely agreed with Her Majesty's Government in considering it important to avert the complication which appears imminent, he would consider how far he could concur with them in endeavouring to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 130.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 12.)

(No. 203. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March* 1, 1877.

THE Secretary of the Turkish Embassy tells me that he had occasion to receive some days ago a considerable sum of money for Government purposes at the Anglo-Austrian Bank, when the cashier observed that he had just been paying a nearly similar amount to the order of the Russian Ambassador.

It is presumed that the money thus remitted to M. Nowikow, may have been intended for transmission to Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 131.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 12.)

(No. 216. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March* 8, 1877.

WITH reference to Mr. Monson's recent reports relative to the negotiations for peace between the Porte and Montenegro, Count Andrassy said to me some days ago that there is, in his opinion, little probability of all Prince Nicholas has asked for being granted to him.

His Excellency observed also that His Highness is mistaken in believing that he will add to his power and importance by an increase of territory, as, should his subjects ever establish themselves in the plains, they will become ordinary peasants and cultivators of the soil, and lose the warlike character and qualities by which they have hitherto maintained the independence of their mountain homes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 132.

Mr. Edwardes to Sir A. Buchanan.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, March* 8.)

(No. 8.)
Sir, *Buda-Pesth, March* 4, 1877.

IN yesterday's sitting of the Chamber, M. Polit, a Servian, addressed the following interpellation to the Government:—

Since the position of Austria-Hungary in the Eastern question was precisely laid down by the Note of Count Andrassy of the 30th December, 1875; by the Berlin Memorandum of the 13th of May, 1876; and by the declarations made at the Conference at Constantinople, from all of which it is shown that the three Allied Powers, Austria-Hungary, Russia, and Germany, can take action with regard to Turkey but by common consent, as is in conformity with the conditions of the alliance; and as, on the other hand, certain demonstrations have been made without the Government interfering in the matter, of a nature expressive of great sympathy for Turkey, which demonstrations contrast strongly with the policy hitherto followed by Austria-Hungary in the Eastern question, he called upon the Government to answer the following questions:—

1. Does Austria-Hungary still maintain in the Eastern question the principles established by the alliance of the three Emperors, formulated and renewed on the three occasions above referred to; and, should this be the case—

2. Does the Government approve such demonstrations, which were of a nature to compromise the policy of the Empire in the Eastern question, and to wound the feelings of millions of its subjects in Hungary, who did not belong to the Magyar nationality.

To this interpellation the Government have as yet returned no reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. EDWARDES.

No. 133.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 12.)

(No. 9. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, March* 2, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Ferik commanding in Bosnia has to-day received a telegram to the effect that peace has been concluded with Servia;

also instructions that the Ottoman troops are to be withdrawn in twelve days, and that the greatest care is to be shown in avoiding anything injurious to the inhabitants or their property.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 134.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 10. Consular.)
Bosna-Serai, March 1, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that two battalions, of about 700 men each, from Istip, in the Vilayet of Adrianople, and also four companies of Bosniacs, of about 80 men each, have just left this for Livno, under the command of Ismet Pasha. It was reported here that ten battalions were to be sent there; and it was imagined that this was on account of the concentration of large numbers of Austrian troops in Dalmatia. I rather supposed that it was simply to endeavour to stamp out the remains of the insurrection along the Dalmatian frontier, and to clear the country of the rebels, with a view afterwards to invite Austria to take measures to prevent their reassembling or remaining on Austrian territory.

I have just seen Vely Pasha, the commander in Bosnia, who confirms this view, and states that it is not at present intended to send more troops.

He also tells me that, besides those now sent, there are three battalions at Livno, or its vicinity, and some eight companies of about 200 men each of Bashi-Bazouks or Mustafiz.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 135.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 2.)
Rustchuk, March 6, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that, ever since my return on the 10th ultimo from Constantinople, where I had proceeded by order of Her Majesty's Ambassador to be ready to afford such information respecting this vilayet as might be required by the Marquis of Salisbury during the sitting of the late Conference, I have been making diligent inquiries as to the state of public feeling in this vilayet, and I am now in a position to lay before your Lordship the result up to the present moment.

The employés of the Government in general are very elated from the results of the Conference, and are by no means dejected from the prospects of a war with Russia. They get their pay, and appear to think they have little to lose.

It is very different, however, with the people. Mussulmans as well as Christians, who know they have everything to lose, and who continue to suffer as much as ever from the incorrigibly deplorable system of Government which they are under. Indeed, if anything, the state of things is worse than ever, and this is chiefly attributed to the elation of the Government employés, who think that Turkey, as they say, having braved all the great Powers of Europe, they can carry on their oppression and injustice with impunity.

I am assured by reliable persons, and who are competent to judge, that were a foreign force (a Russian one alone excepted) to make its appearance in this province, it would be received by the whole population, Mussulman as well as Christian, minus the employés, with open arms.

For this, my Lord, from the information I have received, I would have no hesitation in vouching. I would also, in this case, vouch for there being no fear of any massacre, as has been feared by some.

The Russians, however, would undoubtedly be resisted by the people, and of this I am perfectly convinced.

The present almost total stagnation of trade, the consequent suffering of the lower and middle classes, the continued requisition of war contributions, the forced exaction of taxes in advance, as well as arrears, and the sufferings of the people from the desperation of the moneyless troops on their way to the front, are driving the people to such a state

of despair, that cannot fail, if much prolonged, to produce more serious complications than hitherto. Indeed, it is a wonder how the present state of things has lasted so long.

The Secretary of the Relief Committee here, of which I am the President, yesterday received a report from one of our agents, a worthy man and no exaggerator, and who is at present in the district of Tirnova, which suffered the most in this Vilayet; and, as this report will give your Lordship some idea of the state of things in that district during the past six months, and which is its condition at the present moment, I do myself the honour to inclose a translation as handed to me by our Secretary.

This paper, my Lord, tells a melancholy tale, and of one town alone; and, were it not in harmony with what I have heard from other reliable quarters, I should have hesitated before submitting it to your Lordship, but I deem it my duty to do so, as it is utterly in vain to expect anything from the authorities, who now invariably deny everything of the sort brought to their knowledge.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure in No. 135.

Translation of a Letter received from Gabrovo, March 5, 1877.

THE following is a specimen of the sufferings of the inhabitants of Gabrovo:—

October 27, 1876.—M. Peter Rainof, of the middle Mahala at Gabrovo, on his way from Rustchuk to Gabrovo, near the village Monastirshik and Belnia, was robbed of goods valued at 8,400 piastres. He complained to the authorities at Rustchuk, but obtained no redress.

November 20.—M. Nenko Minuff, of the village Boshanzi, on his way from Rustchuk to Tutracan, was killed near Tutracan, his horse and 1,000 piastres taken. Complaint was made at Rustchuk, and that was the end of it.

November 20.—M. Ilia Kanchoff, of the Sahat Mahala at Gabrovo, one hour's distance from Gabrovo, was by Turks robbed of his horse, worth 1,100 piastres. The horse has not yet been found.

November 30.—M. Misho Kolioff, of Boshanzi, was robbed near Rustchuk of 1,250 piastres.

November 30.—M. Ivan Stojanoff, of the Rachovza Mahala at Gabrovo, on his way to Sistov, in the field of Batachka, was robbed of 500 piastres.

December 28.—M. Georgy Kivadjia had, in the same place, his arm broken by Circassians, and 30 piastres were taken from him.

December 28.—M. Theophil P. Staioff, of the Sahat Mahala at Gabrovo, on his way to Sistov, in the same place, was robbed of his watch and 1,500 piastres.

December 28.—M. Nenu Cholach, of the middle Mahala at Gabrovo, was robbed in the same place of 280 piastres.

January 22, 1877.—M. Ivan Petkoff, of the Sahat Mahala at Gabrovo, was in the same place robbed of a watch and 18 piastres.

January 22.—M. Stojan Gepgoff, of the same Mahala at Gabrovo, was in the same spot robbed by Circassians of 900 piastres.

January 22.—M. Vasil Peutchof, of the same Mahala of Gabrovo, and in the same place, was robbed by Circassians of 1,028 piastres, a fur coat, and several articles of clothing.

January 22.—M. Stojan Vlaikoff, of the middle Mahala of Gabrovo, in the same place was robbed by Circassians of a waterproof coat and 1,500 piastres.

January 22.—M. Todor Minchof Tabak, of Eui Mahala at Gabrovo, in the same place, was robbed of a waterproof coat and 1,565 piastres.

January 29.—M. Michael Banchof, of Sahat Mahala at Gabrovo, in the same place, was robbed of 1,500 piastres.

January 29.—M. Minchael Penchoff, of Shettesh Mahala at Gabrovo, on his way from Selvic to Lofteha, near Kripez, was attacked by Turks, who took his horse, worth 900 piastres.

February 15.—M. Milcho Pentchoff, of Shettesh Mahala at Gabrovo, was in the same place robbed of horse and 800 piastres.

February 15.—M. Michael Ivanoff, of middle Mahala at Gabrovo, on his way from Sistov, and in the meadows of Batash, was robbed of his horse and 90 piastres.

February 24.—M. Abram Petroff, of Eui Mahala at Gabrovo, in same place, was robbed of a fur coat and 50 piastres.

February 24.—M. Simion Tchechlor, of the Sahat Mahala at Gabrovo, following his business as shoe pedler, was found murdered at Karachali, district of Sistov.

The above is only one part of the suffering to which the people are exposed, and as the Gabrovo people live by a trade carried on by travelling from place to place, the people are in despair, and on the point of rising.

The following is another illustration of the suffering of the people of Gabrovo, from 27th September, 1876, to 26th February, 1877:—

	Piastres.
They have furnished 17 waggons, with teams of oxen, and 17 teamsters, for two months, an imposition amounting to	27,200
War contributions for receipts of 200, 150, 100, and 50 piastres ..	15,000
Ditto 12,000 oka bulgar for food, at 1 piastre	12,000
Ditto 1,700 oka butter for food, at 10 piastres	17,000
Ditto small Government receipts	5,000
Ditto 25 horses, with full harness	13,000
Ditto Government receipts distributed	140,000
	229,200

and 140,000 piastres worth of Government receipts are still in readiness to be distributed. Taking into consideration that Gabrovo numbers only 9,600 bedels, and that their roads are all impassable from robbers and murderers, and 229,200 piastres war contributions taken from them, they ask whether any people can be more oppressed than what they are, and whether any one can blame them if they should rise, even if only to perish. Let England or any of the Great Powers say whether we were, or whether we are, the cause of our suffering.

This is in the mouth of every one here, old and young; and while prayers and thanks are offered for the people of England for the merciful relief sent to them, as many and more curses are uttered against the Government of England that have brought about the Conference, and are putting forth their efforts for peace.

The foregoing was given in writing to our Agent, and to which he adds to me privately:—

"I have talked with Ivantcho Effendi, the Kaïmakam, and he is also of the opinion that there is only one step between them and an insurrection, for the tyranny is unbearable. I beg you not to let the Consul know all the above, for he will finally become the cause of my being hanged. He will go to the Vali, the Vali will order a forced counter statement, just as happened twenty days ago, when a Mufetish (investigator) was sent here to get a forced contradiction of the communication I made you with regard to the zaptich using a Bulgarian for his horse, and the pouring of water over the people. This Mufetish did not succeed with the Gabrovo people, but found some of the persons on the mountain farms, who got frightened, and testified that nothing of the kind had happened. I pray you to tell the Consul to give the idea of changing this Government; it is irreclaimable, and all interference makes the lot of the people only worse."

No. 136.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 30. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Athens, March 2, 1877.*

I STATED in my despatch No. 20, Confidential, of the 10th instant, with reference to the disclosures contained in the pamphlet published under the title of "Les Responsabilités," that it was hoped here that Europe would at length be convinced of the danger of Panslavism, and see the necessity of arresting it by giving support and protection to the Hellenic race.

M. Contostavlos has more than once spoken to me in a similar sense, and he has requested me to represent the question to your Lordship from him in that sense, with a view to obtain the general support and protection of Her Majesty's Government for Hellenic interests.

He says that he does not expect Her Majesty's Government to adopt the Greek cause out of a mere regard for the Greeks, but because he is convinced that such a course would be in the true interest of Great Britain as well as in the general interest of Europe.

He disclaims any wish to place Her Majesty's Government in a position of antagonism to Russia, or to commit them to any active or positive intervention on behalf of the Greek

populations of Turkey, and declares that he desires nothing beyond negative assistance, so as to secure fair play for the Greeks, whom he believes to be quite capable of holding their own against Bulgarian encroachments, if both nationalities are left to themselves. The game had hitherto been a very unequal one, as the Greeks had been left friendless, whilst the Slavs had obtained the active support of Russia, as well as the moral support of Europe, at the late Conference.

M. Contostavlos admits that he would like to procure from the Porte the repeal of the Firman constituting the Bulgarian Exarchate, or, failing that, the issue of a Decree restoring to the Œcumenical Patriarch the power of sending Greek prelates into the mixed districts on the south side of the Balkans, which, owing to Slavonic intrigues and misrepresentations, had latterly been included in the Bulgarian Exarchate.

When I observed to him that I doubted whether Her Majesty's Government would be disposed to meddle in an ecclesiastical question with which they had no direct concern, he seemed quite to understand that such might be your Lordship's feeling with respect to the special measure of the repeal of the obnoxious Firman; but he agreed that the whole question was rather political than ecclesiastical, as the political question was at the bottom of it all, the Bulgarian schism having been exclusively projected and carried out for the political extension of Panslavism. As a proof of this, M. Contostavlos stated that until within the last few years, when the Slavonic societies and Russian agents had appeared upon the scene, the Bulgarians and the populations of the other Christian provinces of European Turkey had never dreamt of being Slavs, and had been perfectly content and even proud to be classified as Greeks, and there had never been any previous antagonism between them and the Greeks.

As the apparently insuperable antagonism which has lately arisen between Slavism and Hellenism, and the encroachments and otherwise aggressive proceedings of the Panslavists may shortly render it an important object of European policy to prevent any districts or territory situated on the south of the Balkans from being included in any of the Slav provinces, and to recognize that chain of mountains as the only natural and effective boundary between the two races, I asked M. Contostavlos whether the Greeks would be prepared to leave the mixed districts on the north side of the Balkans to Bulgaria, if those on the south side were admitted to be of Greek nationality.

He answered very decidedly in the affirmative, whilst acknowledging the pain with which the Greeks would consent to abandon so considerable a portion of their race.

M. Contostavlos repeated to me when last I saw him that he would be satisfied with the moral and negative support of Great Britain, in order to prevent any positive injustice being done to the Greeks, through the improper interference of any other Power on behalf of the Bulgarians, and I must confess that his arguments and statements appear to me to be deserving of your Lordship's attention, as, supposing Panslavism with all its ambitious and insidious designs, to be a standing danger and menace to Europe, I see no better means of arresting its further progress than by giving every proper support and protection to the Hellenic populations, against whom its encroachments are more immediately directed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART.

No. 137.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 86.)

My Lord, *Berlin, March 8, 1877.*

PRINCE BISMARCK has requested me to tell your Lordship that, as General Ignatiew's proposals are in every way unobjectionable, the German Government have decided to support them, in the general interest of peace, if the other Powers are equally willing to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 138.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 88. Secret.)
Berlin, March 8, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE just returned from a reception and concert at Court, and have been struck at finding how much anxiety prevails respecting the success of General Ignatiew's mission.

The Emperor himself told me that, in his opinion, the maintenance of peace between Turkey and Russia depended solely on the attitude of England, and he most sincerely hoped that Her Majesty's Government would be able to prevent war by supporting Russia.

The German Ministers and Prussian Generals present at Court spoke to me in the same sense.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 139.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 92. Secret.)
Berlin, March 9, 1877.

My Lord,

IN the course of conversation the other day Prince Bismarck said that he wished to express his sincere thanks to your Lordship for the discretion with which he had been treated in the English Blue Books.

He had rather dreaded the publication of the correspondence on Eastern affairs, and had since read it with a sense of grateful relief.

He supposed that the British public scarcely realized how embarrassing the disclosures in the Blue Books were, and how distasteful, in consequence, they were to Statesmen abroad.

The dread of compromising one's friends and allies by indulging in an intimate exchange of ideas, which was liable to publication, stood in the way of international policy, whilst the publication of such intimate conversations led to personal estrangement and distrust, which reacted in an injurious manner on public affairs.

Some years ago one of his predecessors in office had fallen a victim to the indiscretion of Blue Books, whilst the relations of Count Andrassy with the Russian Government had now been seriously injured by the publication of his "confidences" to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna, a most regrettable occurrence at the present juncture.

At a Court concert last night Her Majesty the Empress spoke to me in the same sense, and said that the Emperor had highly appreciated the reserve so tactfully observed by Her Majesty's Government in regard to Germany in our recent Blue Books on Eastern affairs.

Similar observations were made to me by several members of the German Government in the course of the last few days.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 140.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, March 12, 1877, 5 P.M.

FORWARD following to Monson:—

"Your telegram of the 10th instant respecting transport of stores to Nichsich has been reported to Constantinople, and Mr. Jocelyn is instructed to endeavour to get the matter arranged, and report the result to you."

No. 141.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, March 12, 1877, 5·30 P.M.

MR. MONSON telegraphs as follows under date of March 10:—

[See No. 106.]

You will endeavour to get this matter arranged at the Porte, and inform Mr. Monson.

No. 142.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 70. Confidential.)
Foreign Office, March 12, 1877.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith, the accompanying copies of a draft Protocol and Promemoria,* respecting the affairs of Turkey, which were given to me yesterday by the Russian Ambassador.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 143.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Blunt.

(No. 2.)
Foreign Office, March 12, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch No. 7 of the 22nd ultimo respecting the appearance of two bands of robbers in the districts of Catterina and Veria, I approve the efforts which you used to prevent the employment of Bashi-Bazouks in pursuit of the brigands.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 144.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Blunt.

(No. 3.)
Foreign Office, March 12, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch No. 6 of the 21st ultimo, I have to express the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt that the Governors of Serres and Drama have been recalled by the Porte for not properly assisting the Pasha of Salonica in his efforts to restore to their homes the women and children who had been carried away from Batak and brought to districts in the Vilayet of Salonica.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 145.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Monson.

(No. 7.)
Foreign Office, March 12, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE received your telegram of the 10th instant, in which you state that Prince Nicholas hopes, in the interest of humanity, that Her Majesty's Government will urge the Porte not to adhere to the decision, which they are said to have taken, to stop the supplies of grain from Scutari, destined for the eastern districts of Montenegro, in consequence of the imperfect execution by the Prince of his undertaking to victual Nichsich during the armistice; and in which you add that His Highness will solemnly engage to keep his part

* No. 116*, and Inclosure in No. 156.

of the contract, as soon as the roads, now impassable from snow, can be cleared, and has applied to the Austrian Government to assist him in opening the communications.

I have instructed Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, by telegraph, to endeavour to induce the Turkish Government to arrange this matter; and I have requested him to report to you direct the result of the steps taken by him.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 146.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 3. Consular.)
My Lord, *Rhodes, February 21, 1877.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1, Consular, of the 6th instant, I have the honour to report that his Excellency Sawa Pasha, the newly-appointed Governor-General of the Ottoman Archipelago, has arrived at Rhodes on the 19th instant, on board the Austrian mail steamer, and has taken possession of his post.

Some of the employés of the vilayet have arrived with the same steamer; the Muavin Pasha (Assistant Governor), and the remainder of the employés are expected to arrive in a fortnight.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CH. BILIOTTI.

No. 147.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 5.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, February 26, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to report the departure, on the 21st instant, of his Excellency Ahmed Mukhtar Pasha, who was hastily summoned to Constantinople. His successor, Samih Pasha, is shortly expected from Erzeroum.

There has been considerable agitation in the island during the whole winter, as my *locum tenens*, Mr. Consul Barker, has not failed to report to your Lordship. The Christians have been entering into a bond of brotherhood, which is always a sign of discontent, and in past times has sometimes resulted in insurrection. At the present moment the authorities are ordering the different Administrative Councils in the island to elect two Deputies, a Mussulman and a Christian, to represent the Cretans in the Parliament which is to be held at Constantinople on the 13th of next month. The Christian members of these Councils are everywhere refusing to carry out this order, because they hold it unfair that they, who number nearly 200,000, should have the same representation in the Assembly as the Mussulmans, who are only 70,000. But, independently of this consideration, they argue that their country, having once received a special Charter, granted after the suppression of the last insurrection, it cannot legally be revoked.

This antagonism to the authorities naturally embitters the relations between the two religious sections of the population, but neither side is desirous of precipitating a conflict at the present moment, the Government partly because they do not wish to aggravate the already perilous position of affairs elsewhere, and the Christians because they are in want of military means, which can only be got from Greece, and Greece has steadily discouraged, throughout the whole of the existing crisis, a spirit of insubordination in this island.

The jealousy of Russia, however, which animates the Greeks is by no means so marked here; for though the Cretans put little faith in Russian promises, they continue to regard that Power as the champion of the Greek Church against the hated Moslem, and do not trouble their heads about the more complex question of Panslavism, which they imperfectly understand.

Should, therefore, war break out between Russia and Turkey, these people would be sorely tempted, unprepared though they be, to take up arms in so sacred a cause, in the hope of at length ridding themselves of the Turkish yoke.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 148.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 29.)
(Decypher.)
My Lord, *Tiflis, February 27, 1877.*

RELATIVE to the expected arrival at Tiflis of the 38th and 20th Divisions mentioned in my despatches Nos. 25, 26, and 27, I now find that these divisions, with the exception of four battalions, were already on the frontier.

These four battalions having arrived, the army of the Caucasus may be considered complete. Despatches 20, 21, and 28, sent by hand to Poti, will explain everything.

Your Lordship's telegram was delivered in such a mangled state, that I could make nothing of it.* I conclude it was done purposely by the officials here.

This has already occurred to the Turkish Consul. I had from previous information understood 38th and 20th Divisions were on the frontier, but hear from three different sources of probable arrival of these divisions; and, finding some men arriving, I concluded I was in error, and hence my despatches Nos. 26 and 27. This sort of information is very difficult to obtain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. T. RICKETTS.

P.S.—Statement of the troops given in my despatch No. 19 will, as far as I have means of ascertaining, be not far from the truth.

G. T. R.

No. 149.

Acting Consul-General St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 23. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, March 5, 1877.*

ON the 28th ultimo I had the honour to telegraph to your Lordship that the Great Skupstchina had voted in favour of peace. As the sitting was held with closed doors, I could only from hearsay gather what had taken place at the time.

The Prince having formally opened the Skupstchina, extemporized an address lasting nearly an hour, during which His Highness is said to have shown considerable eloquence and ability in giving a somewhat detailed account of the origin, progress, and termination of the war.

After this M. Ristich read out and explained the conditions of peace.

On being asked by some of the Deputies whether peace was to be concluded with the consent of Russia, M. Ristich replied that Russia had not made any objections.

The conditions of peace appear based on the *status quo ante bellum*; the prohibition of revolutionary committees and bands, and the hoisting of the Turkish flag. The question of a Turkish Agent at Belgrade has been dropped, and some arrangement has been come to with regard to the treatment of the Jews.

These conditions being all approved of, a vote in favour of peace was almost unanimously carried.

On M. Ristich reading the Prince's decree dissolving the Assembly the greatest astonishment and disappointment were manifested, but the Deputies dispersed and returned quietly to their homes, to the great satisfaction of the Prince and his Government.

M. Ristich, in a conversation he had with me later, informed me that had the Deputies been allowed half-an-hour for deliberation, affairs would have taken a very different turn. He was always opposed to the Prince's idea of convoking the Great Skuptchina, as not only the Government, but also the Prince, thereby ran considerable risk.

As a common danger often brings those together who otherwise would remain estranged, so the peril they underwent has been the cause of a better understanding between the Prince and his Ministers; on my making the observation to M. Ristich, he acknowledged that I had been correctly informed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

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* This telegram has been repeated to him.

No. 150.

Acting Consul-General St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 24. Political.)
Belgrade, March 6, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy and translation of Prince Milan's proclamation on the conclusion of peace with the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 150.

Proclamation.

(Translation.)

TO my beloved nation. You were informed by my Proclamation of the 18th of June last year of the reason that compelled us, in conjunction with Montenegro, to take up arms.

The fate of the Christians being now in other hands I am happy at being able to state to you that, after consulting the Great National Assembly, peace has been concluded with the Porte. An instrument by which this has been effected has been signed on the 17th instant (o. s.) by my Delegates and the Imperial Minister for Foreign Affairs, and subsequently by telegraph sanctioned and ratified by me.

Under the guarantee of the Great Powers Servia will resume the same good relations with the Porte that existed before the war. At the end of this month both Turkish and Servian troops will retire across the frontier on to their respective territories. Full amnesty will be accorded to all refugees during the war, and arrangements will be made for their relief.

Brethren, from this day the state of siege ceases in Servia, and certain laws promulgated during the war are now abrogated, while others will remain in force for the present. On resuming occupations of a more peaceful nature, let us not forget those brave men who have left their bones on the field of battle. Their names will ever be held in remembrance by a grateful posterity. Let us also not forsake our wounded who have become unfit for work, and whom it is our bounden duty to support.

It behoves us also not to neglect those of our countrymen who, from their proximity to the seat of war, have been the greater sufferers. It will be the first duty of my Government to supply them with their present wants and to better their condition.

Having on the field of battle fulfilled the duties we owed to our country and to the nation, let us now, by turning our attention to peaceful occupations and brotherly love, endeavour to gather renewed strength wherewith to ensure our national progress. Let us remain ever grateful to our Russian brethren for the assistance they gave us in the time of need, and also to others who, during our difficulties, sympathised with us, and more especially let us express our gratitude to all those benevolent societies and persons who have been ever ready to stretch out a helping hand to the wounded and to assist those who suffered by the war.

I, as your Ruler, have yet an agreeable task to fulfil, viz., that of thanking you for all the sacrifices you were called upon to make during the war. Some of you on the field of battle, others in the execution of various duties, but all, without exception, showing the greatest patriotism.

(Signed) MILAN M. OBRENOVITCH IV,
Prince of Servia.

Belgrade, $\frac{\text{February 21}}{\text{March 5}}$, 1877.

No. 151.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 225.)
Vienna, March 10, 1877.

My Lord,

THE newspapers having reported that a vessel had arrived at Trieste and transhipped a number of cases, supposed to contain arms, into a coasting vessel, which immediately sailed, ostensibly for Ancona, but whose real destination is alleged to have been Alessio,

on the coast of Albania, near Mirditia, I have asked Baron Orczy if he could give me any information on the subject.

His Excellency said that the Government had received a report upon it from the Governor of Trieste, which stated that the vessel which had transhipped the cases had arrived from England, but that the authorities had no means of ascertaining any particulars respecting their eventual destination.

He observed, however, that if it is true that the coasting vessel had proceeded to Alessio, her cargo could only be intended for transmission to Mirditia. He said also that the Turkish Ambassador had spoken to him on the subject, and that he had pointed out to his Excellency, that as Alessio is in Turkish territory, it is for the Turkish authorities to take measures to prevent contraband of war for the use of disaffected subjects of the Sultan being landed there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 152.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, March 13.)

(Télégraphique.)
Constantinople, le 12 Mars, 1877.

NOUS nous sommes déjà réunis deux fois avec les Délégués Monténégrins. Les exigences de ces derniers sont exorbitantes. Ils demandent une modification de frontière, ou plutôt une cession de territoire et non pas une rectification. Je leur ai déclaré plusieurs fois que le Gouvernement Impérial est disposé à accueillir favorablement toute demande basée sur un droit ou bien sur des raisons fondées; que le moment n'est pas propice pour donner suite à toutes leurs exigences, et qu'ils doivent se contenter avec ce que la Sublime Porte leur offre comme suffisant pour leurs besoins pressants. Toutefois, ils persistent dans leurs prétentions, et notamment dans la cession de Nikchik et de Spouz, ainsi que d'un port de mer sur l'Adriatique.

Les négociations se poursuivent. Je vous tiendrai au courant.

No. 153.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 13.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.)
Vienna, March 12, 1877, at night.

GENERAL IGNATIEW is expected here on Friday.

Count Andrassy said to me this evening that he cannot express an opinion on the proposals of Russia until he has seen it in writing, but that he will sign nothing which he cannot defend in Parliament, or which might engage the future action of the Government.

No. 154.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 13.)

(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, March 13, 1877, 5 P.M.

FOLLOWING sent to Monson:—

"The quality of the provisions supplied to Niehsich by Prince Nicholas has been so bad as to be practically unfit for consumption.

"The Porte has asked to be allowed to revictual Niehsich itself from Scutari, food being transported either by Turks or Montenegrins if the former are objected to. If this were granted, orders would be immediately sent for the acceleration of the transmission of grain to the Eastern districts."

No. 155.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 94.)

Foreign Office, March 13, 1877.

Sir,

THE Italian Ambassador, in conversation with me this afternoon, represented his Government as being alarmed at the state of affairs. He said that they continued to receive reports of the mobilization of Austrian troops, and that according to the information which reached them the relations of France and Germany were becoming more and more unsatisfactory.

They looked with great apprehension to the revival of the dispute between the latter two countries, which was set at rest two years ago by the good offices of the other Powers. They also understood that the internal condition of the Turkish Empire was very precarious, and unless a general pacification could be brought about, the results might be disastrous to Europe in general.

General Menabrea expressed his conviction that Italy and the other Powers generally would be ready to join if England and Russia could agree upon a solution of the present difficulties. He asked me whether it was true that a Protocol had been proposed by Prince Gortchakow for signature by the Powers, and what answer Her Majesty's Government were prepared to give to the proposal.

I told his Excellency that such a proposal had been made, and that it was now under consideration. We did not object, I said, in principle to the signature of a Protocol, but in such a case everything depended upon the language in which it was couched, and I was not at present in a position to say whether we should be able to come to an agreement with the Russian Government on the subject.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 156.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 67.)

Foreign Office, March 13, 1877.

My Lord,

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me on the 11th instant on his return from Paris, where he had been to meet General Ignatiew.

His Excellency placed in my hands a draft Protocol, which his Government propose for signature by the Six Powers, and of which I inclose a copy herewith.

I told Count Schouvaloff that I would take the earliest opportunity of submitting this proposal to my colleagues, and would acquaint his Excellency with the view taken of it by them.

I accordingly saw his Excellency again this afternoon after a Cabinet Council had been held, and informed him that Her Majesty's Government were ready to agree in principle to such a Protocol, provided he could come to an understanding as to its terms.

I then proceeded to discuss the wording of the Protocol with his Excellency, who promised to report my observations to his Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

Inclosure in No. 156.

Protocol.—Draft No. 1 as proposed by Russia.

LES Puissances qui ont offert leurs bons offices pour la pacification de l'Orient et ont participé dans cette vue à la Conférence de Constantinople, reconnaissent que le moyen le plus sûr d'atteindre le but qu'elles se sont proposé, est de maintenir avant tout l'entente si heureusement établie entre elles et d'affirmer de nouveau ensemble les réformes qu'elles ont signalées comme indispensables pour l'amélioration du sort des populations Chrétiennes de la Turquie.

Elles prennent acte de la conclusion de la paix avec la Serbie et le Monténégro.

(Dans le cas où la paix avec le Monténégro n'aurait pas été conclue, rappeler que les

Puissances considèrent comme nécessaires la rectification des frontières et la libre navigation de la Boïana.)

Les Puissances considèrent les arrangements intervenus ou à intervenir entre la Porte et les deux Principautés comme une preuve de ses bonnes dispositions et comme un pas accompli vers l'apaisement qui est l'objet de leurs communs désirs.

Elles demandent à la Porte de le consolider en replaçant ses armées sur le pied de paix, et en mettant en œuvre, sans aucun délai, les réformes énumérées dans les Protocoles de la Conférence et dont les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, et depuis la Porte elle-même, se sont déclarés prêts à réaliser la plus grande partie.

Elles prennent spécialement acte de la déclaration par laquelle le Gouvernement Ottoman a annoncé la résolution de les appliquer. . . . . .

En présence de ces bonnes dispositions de la Porte et de son intérêt évident à y donner immédiatement suite, les Puissances se croient fondées à espérer que celle-ci profitera de l'apaisement actuel pour appliquer avec énergie les mesures conseillées par la Conférence et destinées à apporter à la condition des populations Chrétiennes l'amélioration effective unanimement réclamée comme indispensable à la tranquillité de l'Europe, et, qu'une fois entrée dans cette voie, elle comprendra qu'il est de son honneur, comme de son intérêt, d'y persévérer loyalement et efficacement.

Les Puissances se proposent de surveiller d'une manière efficace, par l'intermédiaire de leurs Représentants à Constantinople et de leurs agents locaux, la façon dont les promesses du Gouvernement Ottoman seront exécutées.

Si leur espoir se trouvait encore une fois déçu et si la condition des sujets Chrétiens du Sultan n'était pas améliorée de manière à prévenir le retour des complications qui troublent périodiquement le repos de l'Orient et de l'Europe, elles croient devoir déclarer qu'un tel état de choses serait incompatible avec leurs intérêts et les droits de l'humanité. En pareil cas, elles se réservent d'aviser en commun à l'action qu'elles jugeront indispensable pour assurer le bien-être des populations Chrétiennes et les intérêts de la paix générale.

No. 157.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 68. Most Confidential.)

Foreign Office, March 13, 1877.

My Lord,

THE Russian Ambassador, when handing to me the draft Protocol inclosed in my despatch No. 67 of this day's date, accompanied it by a statement of the views and wishes of his Government to the following effect:—

The object of General Ignatiew's journey, Count Schouvaloff stated, had been to furnish explanations as to the real views of the Cabinet of St. Petersburgh, and to facilitate a pacific solution.

After the sacrifices which Russia had imposed upon herself, the stagnation of her industry and of her commerce, and the enormous expenditure incurred by the mobilisation of 500,000 men, she could not retire nor send back her troops without having obtained some tangible result as regards the improvement of the condition of the Christian populations of Turkey. The Emperor was sincerely desirous of peace, but not of peace at any price.

The Governments of the other Powers were at this moment preparing their answers to the Russian Circular. The Russian Government would not express any opinion by anticipation on these replies, but they foresaw in them the possibility of a great danger. For if the replies were not identical, what would be the position of the Imperial Cabinet?

The agreement of the Powers, so fortunately established at the Conference, might be broken up in consequence of the shades of opinion manifested in the replies of the several Cabinets, and further, if one of the Powers should propose to Russia to resume her liberty of action, would not that be a determining cause to induce her to seek for a solution, either by means of a direct understanding with the Porte, or by force of arms?

Under these circumstances it appears to the Russian Government that the most practical solution, and the one best fitted to secure the maintenance of general peace, would be the signature by the Powers of a Protocol which should, so to speak, terminate the incident.

This Protocol might be signed in London by the Representatives of the Great Powers, and under the direct inspiration of the Cabinet of St. James.

The Protocol would contain no more than the principles upon which the several Governments would have based their reply to the Russian Circular. It would be desirable that it should affirm that the present state of affairs was one which concerned the whole of Europe, and should place on record that the improvement of the condition of the Christian population of Turkey will continue to be an object of interest to all the Powers.

The Porte having repeatedly declared that it engaged to introduce reforms, it would be desirable to enumerate them on the basis of Safvet Pasha's Circular. In this way there could be no subsequent misunderstanding as to the promises made by by Turkey.

As a period of some months would not be sufficient to accomplish these reforms, it would be preferable not to fix any precise limit of time. The term of a year would give rise to a belief in Russia that the army was only put provisionally on a peace footing, and that it was to be ready again for active service at the expiration of that time. It would rest with all the Powers to determine by general agreement whether Turkey was progressing in a satisfactory manner in her work of regeneration.

The Protocol should mention that Europe will continue to watch the progressive execution of the reforms by means of their Diplomatic Representatives.

If the hopes of the Powers should once more be disappointed, and the condition of the Christian subjects of the Sultan should not be improved, the Powers would reserve to themselves to consider in common the action which they would deem indispensable to secure the well-being of the Christian population of Turkey, and the interests of the general peace.

Count Schouvaloff hoped that I should appreciate the moderate and conciliatory spirit which actuated his Government in this expression of their views. They seemed to him to contain nothing incompatible with the principles on which the policy of England was based, and their application would secure the maintenance of general peace.

I made a suitable acknowledgment of his Excellency's communication, reserving any expression of opinion until I had had an opportunity of consulting my colleagues.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 158.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 69. Most Confidential.)
Foreign Office, March 13, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 67 of this day's date, I inclose herewith a copy of the draft Protocol given to me by Count Schouvaloff, with the alterations marked thereon which I suggested in my conversation with his Excellency.

I requested his Excellency further to mention to his Government the three following provisos, to which the assent of Her Majesty's Government must be held to be subject:—

1. We considered that some formal pledge must be given of the intention of Russia to disarm if this Protocol were signed.

2. It was understood that the Porte would not be asked to sign the Protocol.

3. The agreement of the other Powers would of course be necessary before the terms of the document could be considered as settled.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

Inclosure in No. 158.

Protocol.—Draft No. 2, with Lord Derby's Amendments.

LES Puissances qui ont offert leurs bons offices pour la pacification de l'Orient et ont participé dans cette vue à la Conférence de Constantinople, reconnaissent que le moyen le plus sûr d'atteindre le but qu'elles se sont proposé, est de maintenir avant

tout l'entente si heureusement établie entre elles et d'affirmer de nouveau ensemble l'intérêt commun qu'elles prennent à l'amélioration du sort des populations Chrétiennes de la Turquie.

Elles prennent acte de la conclusion de la paix avec la Serbie et le Monténégro.

(Dans le cas où la paix avec le Monténégro n'aurait pas été conclue, rappeler que les Puissances considèrent comme désirables dans l'intérêt d'un arrangement solide et durable la rectification des frontières et la libre navigation de la Boïana.)

Les Puissances considèrent les arrangements intervenus ou à intervenir entre la Porte et les deux Principautés comme une preuve de ses bonnes dispositions et comme un pas accompli vers l'apaisement qui est l'objet de leurs communs désirs.

Elles engageront la Porte à demanderont à la Porte de le consolider en replaçant ses armées sur le pied de paix,* et en mettant en œuvre, dans le plus court délai possible, les réformes nécessaires pour la tranquillité et le bien-être des provinces de l'état desquelles la Conférence s'est préoccupée. Elles reconnaissent avec plaisir satisfaction que la Porte s'est déclarée prête à en réaliser la plus grande partie.

Elles prennent spécialement acte de la déclaration par laquelle le Gouvernement Ottoman a annoncé la résolution de les appliquer. . . . .

En présence de ces bonnes dispositions de la Porte et de son intérêt évident à y donner immédiatement suite, les Puissances se croient fondées à espérer que celle-ci profitera de l'apaisement actuel pour appliquer avec énergie les mesures destinées à apporter à la condition des populations Chrétiennes l'amélioration effective unanimement réclamée comme indispensable à la tranquillité de l'Europe, et, qu'une fois entrée dans cette voie, elle comprendra qu'il est de son honneur, comme de son intérêt, d'y persévérer loyalement et efficacement.

Les Puissances se proposent de veiller, par l'intermédiaire de leurs Représentants à Constantinople et de leurs Agents locaux, à la façon dont les promesses du Gouvernement Ottoman seront exécutées.

Si leur espoir se trouvait encore une fois déçu et si la condition des sujets Chrétiens du Sultan n'était pas améliorée de manière à prévenir le retour des complications qui troublent périodiquement le repos de l'Orient, elles croient devoir déclarer qu'un tel état de choses serait incompatible avec leurs intérêts et ceux de l'Europe en général. En pareil cas elles se réservent d'aviser en commun aux démarches qu'elles jugeront les plus propres à assurer le bien-être des populations Chrétiennes et les intérêts de la paix générale.

No. 159.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 13, 1877, 6 P.M.

THE Russian Ambassador informed me yesterday afternoon that his Government had already urged on the Prince of Montenegro to be moderate in his negotiations with the Porte, and that they were continuing to give advice in that sense.

No. 160.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 70.)
Foreign Office, March 13, 1877.

My Lord,

THE Russian Ambassador informed me this afternoon that his Government had already urged the Prince of Montenegro to be moderate in his negotiations with the Porte and they were continuing to give advice in that sense.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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* We object to asking the Porte to disarm unless Russia undertakes to do the same, and till the insurrection is ended.

No. 162.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 127 A.) *Foreign Office, March* 13, 1877.

Sir,

A COMMUNICATION from Belgrade appeared in the "Times" of yesterday's date to the effect that murders and outrages are on the increase in Northern Bosnia, and that many Christian inhabitants of the districts of Banjaluka, Bihatsch, and Berbia are escaping across the frontier to Austria to save their lives, leaving all their property to be plundered by the Bashi-Bazouks.

On seeing this statement, I instructed you, by telegraph, to inquire of Her Majesty's Consul whether it was true; and I added that if Mr. Consul Holmes had not yet returned to his post, you should instruct him to do so at once, and to report on the state of the country generally, and whether atrocities are being committed.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 163.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March* 13, 1876, 9·15 P.M.

FOLLOWING received from Monson to-day:—

"Prince Nicholas is much gratified at the action of Her Majesty's Government respecting transport of provisions to Nichsich.

"Austrian authorities have cleared the road from the sea to the frontier of the Herzegovina; but the weather threatens more snow."

No. 164.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March* 13, 1877, 10 P.M.

(Private and Confidential.)

MONSON has reason to believe that the Austrian Government do not object to the cession of Spitza, but only to the cession of the district of Sutorina (*sic*), Bocche di Cattaro.

No. 165.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 14.)

(No. 15.) *Scutari, March* 3, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 14 of the 26th ultimo, I have now the honour to report that, upon Mr. Jocelyn informing me that the Porte had repeated its assurance that the most positive orders had been given for the unconditional release of the imprisoned Mirdite Chief, I again called upon Derwish Pasha and Mustafa Pasha to see what their Excellencies proposed doing.

Derwish Pasha told me that he had decided upon assuming upon himself the responsibility of not releasing Marco Gion Nozza until the Mirdites had complied with his summons to raise the blockade of the high roads, and that he had that morning dispatched Salih Pasha to Miet, on the confines of Mirdicia, and where a considerable

body of Turkish troops is collected, to press his Excellency's wishes upon the attention of the Mirdites.

I immediately pointed out to Derwish Pasha that Salih Pasha's mission was only calculated to envenom matters, as he was—rightly or wrongly I would not pretend to say—accused of having some years ago desecrated the grave of Preuk Bib Doda's father, by digging up and hacking the body to pieces; and of being the person quite recently employed to raise the Mohammedans of Matica, Dibra, &c., against the Mirdites.

Derwish Pasha said that as Salih Pasha was the Lieutenant-Governor of the province, he had a right to be employed on the duty upon which he had been sent; and that the fact of Salih Pasha holding such a high position ought to be accepted as a sign that he possessed the confidence of the Government.

Mustafa Pasha, on the contrary, agreed with me on the impolicy of the steps taken by the Commander-in-chief, and regretted that he was obliged to follow his Excellency's lead.

It appears, however, that my representations had the effect of making the authorities conform themselves more strictly to the instructions received from Constantinople, as next day Marco Gion Nozza was released, and orders were sent to Salih Pasha to return to Scutari.

An unusually heavy fall of snow has since prevented any rapid communication with Mirdicia, and it is not yet known whether the Mohammedan hostages have been set at liberty, and whether the roads are now free.

Although the danger of the immediate occurrence of conflicts between the Turkish troops and the Mirdites has been averted, there remains still the fact that an indefinable enthusiasm appears to have spread among the Roman Catholic mountaineers, having birth in the belief that the moment is at hand for the expulsion of the Turks out of North Albania. The elevation of Preuk Bib Doda as the Chief of the Roman Catholic tribes has been accepted, not owing to any extraordinary personal merits of the individual, who is a youth of about nineteen years old of very ordinary parts, but as the embodiment of the idea of an independent Christian authority. The Roman Catholic clergy has been surprised and alarmed by this movement, but is evidently of opinion that it would be dangerous to oppose it.

I believe that the Mirdites are not likely to precipitate matters until they know the result of the present peace negotiations with Montenegro, and that, if these prosper, the Turks will be the first to give the signal for an outbreak, by some injudicious attempt to punish the Mirdites for their present conduct.

The feeling of the Mohammedan North Albanians is not favourable to the Turkish authorities, who, they fancy, are also aiming at depriving them of their privilege of exemption from regular military service, and in case of a general Christian insurrection, they would, at first at all events, remain neutral.

My Italian colleague informed me this morning that he had received the instructions announced by your Lordship's telegram to me of yesterday. I was able to explain to him that the Turkish authorities having, for the moment, adopted a conciliatory and prudent course, we need not now move in the matter, but that I would seek his co-operation should anything unforeseen occur.

All my colleagues have, throughout the Mirdite affairs, kept entirely aloof from the Turkish authorities on the ground that both Derwish Pasha and Mustafa Pasha are persons whom it is impossible to influence for good, and, I believe, they are all of opinion that these functionaries ought to be removed. I, on the contrary, have lost no opportunities of pressing upon them the advice which I have from time to time reported to your Lordship. I do not think that these Pashas are exactly the right men in the right places, but, as they happen to possess for the moment the confidence of their Government, I have felt it my duty not to ignore their existence, and to endeavour to make them understand that they do incur some responsibility when they reject advice proffered by a British Consular officer.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 166.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 13, 1877, 11·30 P.M.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs informed me to-day that Turkey was willing to cede to Montenegro certain portions of territory on the north provided that the Prince of Montenegro were willing to recognise the suzerainty of the Porte. This condition was indispensable, seeing that by the Treaty of Paris the Porte could not alienate any territory except by the consent of the Guaranteeing Powers. The demands of Montenegro being virtually those imposed by the Plenipotentiaries, Porte had already rejected by breaking off the Conference, and his Excellency maintained that England had proposed that peace should be concluded with Principality on the basis of the *status quo*. He was fully alive to the danger of war with Russia arising from a renewal of hostilities with Principality, and to the fearful consequences which such a contest might involve, expressing a hope that, in the interest of all, the Powers would impose their will upon the Prince of Montenegro to dissuade him from demanding what could not be conceded.

In any case, he said, Turkey, while maintaining a sufficient force to keep Montenegro in check, was willing to offer most solemn assurances of her readiness to execute all the reforms already accepted by her in the Conference, and that if she could obtain from any of the Great Powers a reasonable security against attack from Russia, she would not hesitate to disarm immediately.

No. 167.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 14, 1877, 1 A.M.

A LETTER was sent by last Friday's mail to the "Daily News," giving full details of the outrage lately committed by Turkish soldiers at Podsarko, near Vodina, in Macedonia. Its statements should be received with caution, and judgment upon the case should be reserved until the Commission, which has been appointed by the Governor-General of Salonica, consisting of one Mussulman and one Christian member proposed by Mr. Blunt, has made its report.

No. 168.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 14, 5·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 14, 1877, 2·16 P.M.

SEVERAL demonstrations by Softas have lately taken place in Stamboul. Their object is to demand recall of Midhat Pasha, fearing that (the) Ministry may make concessions to Montenegro.

Placards have also been posted in streets to same effect, advocating the dismissal of Sultan's brother-in-law and of Minister of War, who is considered incapable.

Several arrests have been made.

Minister of Police has been dismissed, and replaced by Commandant of Silistria, said to be very fanatical.

No. 169.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 14, 1877, 6·10 P.M.

HER Majesty's Government consider that the Porte is very ill advised to be raising the difficulties reported in your telegram of the 13th instant, with regard to Montenegro. Pacification of insurgents, and peace generally, will be scarcely possible if the war with Montenegro is kept open.

No. 170.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March* 14, 1877.

THE Chancery was also unable to decypher Monson's telegram of last night, but send directly copy, as they presume the figures ought to be:—

"I have received the three telegrams of yesterday. With reference to strategical reasons alleged by Mukhtar Pasha against acceding to the Prince's demands, I have no hesitation in saying that, on the side of Herzegovina, they are fallacious, as every European military man (who) knows the district and the history of the last campaign will agree. Nichsich is and always will cause a weakness to the Turks and the line of Trebigné, Gatzko, and Foche is actually their present line of defence.

There is more to be said for the retention of Spuz as a point of great strategical importance for the defence of Albania.

Mukhtar's official false reports of his successes in the Herzegovina make it incumbent on him to maintain a fatally erroneous line of argument in the present discussion.

No. 171.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 128.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 14, 1877.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 155 of the 2nd instant, I approve your having communicated to the Sultan, through Hobart Pasha, the substance of my telegram of the 20th ultimo, in which you were instructed to warn the Porte seriously of the danger it would incur by commuting any capital sentence that had been passed on persons convicted of massacres or atrocities in Bulgaria.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 172.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 133 A.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 14, 1877.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 13th instant, stating that the Minister for Foreign Affairs had informed you that Turkey was willing to cede to Montenegro certain portions of territory on the north, provided that the Prince of Montenegro were willing to recognize the suzerainty of the Porte. That this condition was indispensable, seeing that by the Treaty of Paris the Porte was unable to alienate any territory except with the consent of the Guaranteeing Powers.

That the demands of Montenegro being virtually those imposed by the Plenipotentiaries, the Porte had already rejected them by breaking off the Conference, and that the Minister for Foreign Affairs maintained that England had proposed that peace should be concluded with the Principality, on the basis of the *status quo*.

That he was fully alive to the danger of war with Russia arising from a renewal of hostilities with the Principality, and to the fearful consequences which such a contest might involve; and that his Excellency expressed a hope that, in the interests of all, the Powers would impose their will on the Prince of Montenegro to dissuade him from demanding concessions which could not be granted.

That in any case Turkey, while maintaining a sufficient force to keep Montenegro in check, was willing to offer most solemn assurances of her readiness to execute all the reforms which had been already accepted by her in the Conference, and that if she could obtain from any of the Great Powers a reasonable security against attack from Russia, she would not hesitate to disarm immediately.

In reply to this telegraphic communication from you, I instructed you by telegraph to inform the Minister for Foreign Affairs that the Porte is, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, very ill-advised in raising difficulties of the nature alluded to above, with regard to Montenegro, and that the pacification of the insurgents and peace generally will be scarcely possible if the war with Montenegro is kept open.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 173.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 144.)
Foreign Office, March 14, 1877.

Sir,

THE Turkish Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and communicated to me a telegram from his Government, of which I inclose a copy,* relative to the supposed objects of General Ignatiew's journey.

I told Musurus Pasha briefly that the Russian Ambassador had made me acquainted with the proposals of which General Ignatiew was the bearer, and that they involved the signature of a Protocol by the Representatives of the Six Powers. The terms of that document were still under discussion, and all that I could say at present was that if it were agreed to and signed, its contents would not be likely to be of such a nature as the Porte seemed to apprehend.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 174.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, March 14.)

(Télégraphique.)
Constantinople, le 12 *Mars*, 1877.

LE voyage du Général Ignatiew, qui donne lieu à diverses interprétations, semblerait, d'après certaines informations qui nous parviennent, avoir pour objet l'un ou quelques uns des points suivants: L'adhésion des Puissances à l'introduction dans les Principautés-Unies d'un corps de troupes Russes qui seraient échelonnées le long du Danube pour surveiller l'exécution des réformes administratives en Roumélie; fixer à la Sublime Porte un court délai pour l'exécution des réformes, et ce délai expiré sans résultat, aviser à l'emploi d'autres moyens; signature d'un Protocole qui relaterait le programme présenté à la Conférence de Constantinople, et que l'on conseillerait à la Sublime Porte d'accepter, et, en cas de refus, prendre d'autres résolutions pour le règlement de la question; ce dernier point est celui qui présente le plus de consistance. Il convient de prévenir les effets de cette tactique en faisant savoir confidentiellement au Gouvernement près duquel vous êtes accrédité que la Sublime Porte, si l'un de ces points venait à lui être soumis, se trouverait dans la nécessité absolue de le repousser; que de pareilles propositions iraient à l'encontre du but désiré par les Puissances en ce sens qu'elles ne pourraient que paralyser les réformes, qui sont en voie d'exécution, et créer de nouveaux embarras à la Turquie et à l'Europe.

Vous rappelerez, en outre, que les prétendues garanties ou précautions qui seraient recommandées par le Général Ignatiew, seraient en réalité sans objet puisque le Gouvernement Impérial travaille assidûment et notoirement tant à la mise en pratique de tous les points du projet Européen sur lesquelles l'accord s'était établi, qu'à l'exécution de toutes les réformes et de toutes les institutions qui découlent de la Constitution.

Quant à l'échelonnement des troupes Russes sur le Danube, je laisse à la sagesse des Puissances d'apprécier les innombrables inconvénients et les dangers imminents d'une pareille mesure que rien ne pourrait, d'ailleurs, justifier.

No. 175.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 14, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, March 14, 1877, 10 P.M.

I HAVE forwarded to Jocelyn a copy of the following telegram from Monson:—

"Prince Nicholas requests me to state that he readily accepts the proposition of the Porte to allow the revictualment of Niehsich from Scutari to be made by means of Turks, to whose employment he has no objection whatever, and will do all in his power to facilitate the operation by placing, if the Porte wishes, 200 horses *gratis* at their disposal at Spuz, being all the horses available. I am telegraphing to Consul-General Green to concert matters with Vali at Scutari, so as to obviate delays and difficulties. Prince Nicholas

* No. 174.

desires me to express to you his gratitude for your good offices, and his hope that the Porte will immediately give orders for the transmission of his grain, His Highness being determined on his side to carry out faithfully all the stipulations of his Agreement."

No. 176.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 14, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, March 14, 1877, 10·30 P.M.

INTELLIGENCE having been received here that the Grand Council at Constantinople has resolved that no territorial extension should be granted to Montenegro, I am told that Minister for Foreign Affairs stated to-day to the Turkish Ambassador, that without wishing to interfere in the question he must, as a friend, strongly advise the Porte, if it desires a peaceful issue from its present difficulties, to make concessions to Prince Nicholas, in accordance with recommendations of Conference.

No. 177.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 14, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, March 14, 1877, 11·45 P.M.

I HAVE been informed that an extensive movement is on foot here for the dismissal of the brother-in-law of the Sultan and of the [? Minister of War].

The Softa party are determined to carry out this measure, which they consider indispensable to avert revolution and anarchy; but they have not yet matured their plan of operations, and are desirous of avoiding bloodshed, if possible.

No. 178.

Consul Skene to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 6. Political.)
Aleppo, February 19, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of my despatch of to-day's date, reporting to Mr. Jocelyn on disturbances which recently occurred in the town of Aintab.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. SKENE

Inclosure in No. 178.

Consul Skene to Mr. Jocelyn.

Aleppo, February 19, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Mussulman inhabitants of Aintab have been for some days in a state of unusual excitement, clamouring for war, and offering to the Governor to enroll themselves as volunteers.

On Friday the 9th instant they paraded the streets with flags, and insisted on having from the Mufti, a Fetva declaring it lawful to kill Christians. That legal functionary delivered to them a paper couched in terms which could neither disappoint them nor compromise himself, pronouncing it lawful for Mussulmans to defend their country against all enemies attacking it. With this document they repaired to the different Mosques to have it read aloud to crowds of people shouting frantically. They next rushed to the bazaars, where patriotism degenerated to plunder, and they took wares by force from the shops, beating their Christian and Jewish owners.

On the following day they declared to the Governor that arms, ammunition, and even artillery had been smuggled into the town by Christians intent on a massacre of the Mussulmans, and that they were concealed in the new college built by the American missionaries. A detachment of troops under the command of a captain was sent to search the college, which was soon surrounded by a mob of Mussulmans. Nothing was

discovered but some large American stoves with iron chimneys, which had given rise to the rumour.

The non-Mussulman inhabitants of Aintab are thus much alarmed for their safety, and have closed their shops and respective places of worship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. SKENE.

No. 179.

Consul Skene to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 7. Political.)
Aleppo, February 20, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of my despatch of to-day's date reporting to Mr. Jocelyn the murder of one of the cavasses of this Consulate by Mussulmans under the influence of fanaticism, because he was in the service of a Christian.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. SKENE.

Inclosure in No. 179.

Consul Skene to Mr. Jocelyn.

Aleppo, February 20, 1877.

Sir

I HAVE the honour to report that on the 15th instant one of the cavasses of this Consulate, named Ibrahim Kubevar, was riding quietly along the street to his house, when he was accosted by six Mussulmans who called him an infidel in the service of an infidel. The cavass answered that he was proud to serve the English Consul, whom they were not worthy of approaching. They then dragged him off his horse, and stabbed him to death.

This was the most courageous, trusty, and efficient, as also, I may say, the most attached of the cavasses under my orders. He has lost his life through fidelity and absence of fanaticism; he has left a mother, wife, and four children unprovided for; if it were possible to give them, or to obtain from the Porte for them some pecuniary assistance, it would be a very opportune act of charity, and an effect would, moreover, be produced in the town which could not prove otherwise than exceedingly beneficial in its present state of religious and political agitation.

The murderers are well known, and I have applied for their arrest by name, to be placed on their trial, for which I have secured ocular witnesses of the crime, but it is said that an understanding has been come to with the police department. One of them is a soldier of the Reserve, and the Military Commandant, on hearing of it from me, handed him over at once to the civil authorities. The cavasses of the Consulate, whom I ordered to call in policemen to effect the arrest of any of the murderers they could find without informing the officers of police, succeeded in having another of them captured thus, but he was set at liberty by those officers on the pretext that his name was not in my letter, which had been altered when translated. Should the murderers not be all brought to justice, there will be reason to apprehend serious consequences, as the inhabitants of the quarter of the town where the murdered cavass lived have declared that they will in that event avenge his death by attacking the quarter where the murderers live.

I respectfully request that the Porte may be moved to send a telegraphic order in the most stringent terms for their immediate arrest, which can easily be effected if the police officers are forced to do their duty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. SKENE.

No. 180.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 27. Political.)
Cettigné, March 3, 1877.

My Lord,

PRINCE NICHOLAS sent for me and my Austrian colleague this afternoon, and informed us that he had received a telegram from Prince Milan, insisting on the necessity

of the assent of Montenegro to the ratification of the Treaty of Peace between Servia and Turkey.

His Highness stated that he had telegraphed to Belgrade, in reply, that his views remained unchanged, but that he must leave Prince Milan to form his own appreciation of the situation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 181.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 28. Political.)
Cettigné, March 3, 1877.

My Lord,

PRINCE NICHOLAS told me this afternoon that he had received last night a telegram from his delegates, announcing their arrival at Constantinople, and adding that they had met with a very civil reception at the hands of the Grand Vizier and of Safvet Pasha.

Their formal negotiations with the latter would begin on the 5th instant.

The Prince added, laughingly, that he had calculated that about this day week the English and Austrian Governments would be sending to me and to Colonel Thömmel instructions to press upon him the unacceptable conditions which he foresaw the Porte would offer, and that he should have a horse standing ready saddled in the stable, so that at the first symptom of such action on our part he may escape from Cettigné.

I observed to the Prince that, as the Porte had been the first to propose direct negotiations, I could not but hope that the conditions to which she would express herself as ready to agree would not be so impossible of acceptance as His Highness anticipated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 182.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 29. Political.)
Cettigné, March 4, 1877.

My Lord,

I SEE in the "Times" of the 23rd ultimo a letter from Mr. Stillman, impugning the statement made by your Lordship in the House of Lords on the 20th ultimo, to the effect that M. Yonine, the Russian Consul-General at Ragusa, attended the funeral of the insurgent chief Maxime Baccvic.

I did not arrive in Ragusa until after this incident, and I found that the most conflicting statements were current as to the details.

The foreign Consuls at Ragusa hoist their flags on Sunday, and it was on a Sunday that this funeral took place. A member of Russian Consulate told me that the servants had of their own accord lowered the Russian flag to half-mast on seeing the funeral procession approach. Mr. Consul Taylor, who lived opposite, being unwell at the time, did not happen to notice this, and failed, therefore, I believe, to report the fact to your Lordship.

As to M. Yonine's attendance at the funeral, I have been assured by several persons whom I have no reason to disbelieve, that when the coffin had passed, and probably after Mr. Stillman had passed also, M. Yonine came out of the Consulate and walked with the crowd which followed the corpse some two or three hundred yards to a spot called the "Bella Vista." The cemetery being some distance from the town it is very customary at funerals in Ragusa for persons wishing to show respect to the deceased to follow the cortége to this spot, and then retire from the procession. This is what, as I am informed, M. Yonine did on this occasion; and under these circumstances it is very intelligible that Mr. Stillman, not having seen the proceeding, has always believed that the Russian Consul-General never left his house.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 183.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 30. Political.)

Cettigné, March 5, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of telegrams respecting the prolongation of the armistice between Turkey and Montenegro until the 21st instant exclusively.

Prince Nicholas sent his Secretary last night to communicate to my Austrian colleague and to me the text of the Grand Vizier's telegram (inclosure No. 1), and we understood that it was His Highness's intention to reply that his acceptance of the proposal of the Porte was implied in his telegram of March 1. We therefore told M. Duby that we should telegraph to our Governments to that effect. An hour later, however, M. Duby returned with the text of the Prince's telegrams to Constantinople (inclosures 2 and 3), and I was forced to correct my previous message to your Lordship by sending a second telegram, explaining that His Highness had authorized his Delegates to make the formal announcement this morning to the Grand Vizier that Montenegro adhered to the proposed prolongation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 183.

The Grand Vizier to the Prince of Montenegro.

Constantinople, le 4 Mars, 1877.

(Télégraphique.)

PAR son télégramme responsif du premier de ce mois votre Altesse a bien voulu m'informer que, prévoyant l'arrivée de ses Délégués à Constantinople un ou deux jours après l'expiration de l'armistice, elle avait prescrit à ses commandants de ne commencer ni permettre aucun acte d'hostilité sans un ordre spécial de sa part. Ainsi que j'ai eu l'honneur de le télégraphier à votre Altesse, le Gouvernement Impérial a jugé opportun de prolonger le terme de l'armistice jusqu'au $\frac{9}{21}$ de ce mois exclusivement.

Il serait donc nécessaire de transmettre des ordres précis dans ce sens aux commandants Monténégrins; afin de régler la situation et de prévenir tout malentendu. Je prie votre Altesse de me télégraphier son adhésion à cette proposition.

Inclosure 2 in No. 183.

The Prince of Montenegro to the Grand Vizier.

Cettigné, le 4 Mars, 1877.

(Télégraphique.)

EN réponse à votre dépêche de ce jour, j'ai l'honneur d'informer votre Altesse que son Excellence le Voïvode Bogidar Petrovitch est chargé de lui donner demain communication officielle de mon acceptation de l'augmentation proposée de l'armistice.

Inclosure 3 in No. 183.

The Prince of Montenegro to M. Petrovich.

Cettigné, le 4 Mars, 1877.

(Télégraphique.)

SON Altesse le Grand Vizier demandant si j'ai formellement accepté la prolongation proposée de l'armistice jusqu'au $\frac{9}{21}$ Mars exclusivement, je vous charge de déclarer officiellement à Son Altesse que je l'ai acceptée, et que mes commandants en ont reçu avis en sus de mes ordres précédents donnés lors de votre départ.

No. 184.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 170.)

Constantinople, March 6, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 152 of the 1st instant, I have now the honour to transmit a copy of the note which was addressed by the Servian Delegates to the Grand Vizier recording their adhesion to the conditions upon which the Porte was willing to re-establish the *status quo ante* with the Principality.

Your Lordship will observe the guarded nature of the language employed, and the omission in the last paragraph of the term "firman" which is replaced by that of "Iradé Impérial," not by that of "Acte Usité," as I had been led to believe when I wrote my above-mentioned despatch.

A clerical error on the part of the Delegates on the fair copy of the note, where the parenthesis recording the disabilities of the Jews, was omitted from the paragraph relating to them, caused considerable excitement at the Porte, but as it merely recorded an existing fact, which could not be called in question, it was allowed to pass, and the mistake rectified in the margin.

M. Christich, in thus early furnishing me with a copy of the note, has requested that it may be considered confidential, at all events until the Porte has communicated it officially to Her Majesty's Embassy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure in No. 184.

The Servian Delegates to the Grand Vizier.

LES Soussignés, Délégués spéciaux de Son Altesse le Prince de Serbie, ont déjà eu l'honneur de se rendre auprès de la Sublime Porte les interprètes du désir sincère du Prince de Serbie et du Gouvernement Princier de voir les relations de la Principauté avec la Cour Suzeraine rétablies un moment plus tôt telles qu'elles existaient avant les derniers malheureux événements.

La Sublime Porte, de son côté, ayant fait connaître à Son Altesse le Prince les propositions dont elle avait jugé l'adoption nécessaire pour le rétablissement du *statu quo ante*, les Soussignés, se conformant à leurs instructions, s'empressent de présenter au Gouvernement Impérial les explications suivantes qui leur permettent d'établir et de déclarer que rien ne s'oppose désormais au rétablissement du *statu quo*.

La Sublime Porte désire que:—

"Conformément aux stipulations qui ont été faites lors du retrait des troupes Ottomanes de la Citadelle de Belgrade, le pavillon Ottoman flotte désormais sur la dite Citadelle à côté du pavillon Serbe; et aussi, qu'en exécution des anciens firmans, le nombre des forteresses et l'importance des fortifications existantes ne soient pas augmentés par la suite."

Le Gouvernement Princier n'a jamais cessée de remplir l'obligation de hisser le pavillon Ottoman sur la Citadelle de Belgrade. D'ailleurs ces deux points se trouvent expressément et explicitement établis dans les Hatti-Chérifs de Redjib 1249 et du $\frac{11 \text{ Avril, } 1833}{8 \text{ Zilkadje, } 1248}$; il s'ensuit qu'aussitôt que la Principauté sera admise à établir des relations avec la Cour Suzeraine sur le pied du *statu quo ante*, la reconnaissance que le rétablissement du *statu quo ante* implique de tous les Firmans Impériaux délivrés à diverses dates rendra obligatoires quant aux forteresses les stipulations contenues dans les Firmans susmentionnés, et dès lors ces stipulations entreront immédiatement en vigueur et seront scrupuleusement observées.

La Sublime Porte désire également que—

"Le Gouvernement Princier prévienne la formation sur le territoire de la Principauté de bandes armées destinées à porter le trouble dans les provinces voisines, ainsi que l'entrée dans les provinces voisines des bandes armées ainsi formées, soit par corps et ouvertement, soit clandestinement et par petits groupes; qu'en outre le Gouvernement Princier mette obstacle à la formation de sociétés secrètes ou non, ayant pour but de troubler la paix et la tranquillité des provinces voisines."

Les Soussignés ont invoqué les antécédents les moins contestables de droit et de fait pour fournir au Gouvernement de la Sublime Porte les assurances les plus formelles quant aux tendances éminemment conservatrices et anti-révolutionnaires qui ont de tout temps

caractérisé le peuple et le Gouvernement de la Principauté. La Serbie, consciente de sa position, cherche dans le travail productif les éléments de sa prospérité; ennemie de toute agitation qui serait nuisible à son développement, moral, intellectuel, et commercial, elle s'est donné des lois sévères pour prévenir la création de sociétés secrètes ayant des buts subversifs, pour réprimer la formation de bandes armées destinées à fomenter des troubles dans les provinces voisines. De fait, durant la longue période qui s'est écoulée depuis la création de la Principauté sous le Sultan Mahmoud jusqu'à ce dernier temps, non seulement la formation de bandes armées a été inconnue en Serbie, mais il n'y a pas même existé de sociétés secrètes, tant il est vrai que la législation intérieure, conforme du reste avec les tendances du peuple Serbe, a toujours suffi pour empêcher la naissance de tels éléments de troubles.

Les sociétés secrètes auxquelles la Sublime Porte a fait allusion ont eu leur origine et leur siège ailleurs qu'en Serbie. Si dans ce dernier temps ces lois de la Principauté étant restées impuissantes, il s'est produit une situation funeste à tous les intérêts, les assurances dont les Soussignés ont l'honneur d'être les organes auprès du Gouvernement Impérial sont précisément destinées à y mettre fin en rétablissant la paix et les rapports de bonne entente entre la Cour Suzeraine et la Principauté, et à rendre à ces lois préservatrices de l'ordre public leur antique et incontestable autorité et efficacité pour le plus grand avantage de la Serbie elle-même.

La Sublime Porte désire que—

"Indépendamment de la liberté religieuse les Arméniens, Grégoriens et Catholiques, et les Israélites jouissent en Serbie des mêmes droits et des mêmes privilèges que les autres habitants."

Au désir de tolérance religieuse si généreusement manifesté par la Sublime Porte, les Soussignés ont répondu que la législation intérieure de la Serbie ne connaît aucune exception fondée sur des faits de religion; qu'il n'a jamais existé d'Arméniens, Grégoriens, ou Catholiques en Serbie; que tous les citoyens Serbes jouissent des mêmes droits civils et politiques; que les Israélites sujets Serbes n'en sont pas plus privés (sauf une seule restriction concernant leur établissement dans l'intérieur du pays) que le seraient à l'avenir des citoyens Serbes qui appartiendraient à un rite Chrétien autre que le rite Orthodox. Les Soussignés se félicitent d'avoir été ainsi mis à même de montrer que le grand principe de liberté religieuse inhérent au régime intérieur de la Principauté a été de tout temps le partage de tous les citoyens Serbes sans distinction de culte.

Ils s'estiment heureux d'avoir ainsi établi dans ce qui précède le parfait accord existant entre la Sublime Porte et le Gouvernement Princier, pour tout ce qui a trait aux conditions du rétablissement du *statu quo* qui avaient été précédemment notifiées à Belgrade.

Les Soussignés, en leur qualité déjà énoncée de délégués de la Principauté et ayant la mission de renouveler de la manière la plus formelle l'expression de loyale fidélité du Prince et du peuple Serbe envers l'auguste personne de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, n'hésitent pas à déclarer au Gouvernement de la Sublime Porte que Son Altesse le Prince Milan est prêt à confirmer directement les explications et les assurances dont ils ont été en son nom les fidèles interprètes. Ils espèrent en conséquence que Son Altesse le Grand Vézir voudra bien provoquer l'émanation de l'Iradé Impérial pour le rétablissement du *statu quo ante*, et aussi pour que les troupes Impériales se retirent dans les douze jours à dater d'aujourd'hui derrière la ligne de démarcation, et que cette ligne soit rétablie telle qu'elle existait avant les derniers événements.

(Signé) PH. CHRISTITCH.
D. MATITCH.

Constantinople, le $\frac{10}{22}$ *Février*, 1877.

No. 185.

Acting Consul-General St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 15.)

(No. 26. Political.)

Belgrade, March 9, 1877.

My Lord,

PRINCE MILAN informed me to-day that the Turks had evacuated Alexinatz on the 6th instant, and that Servian proprietors were now returning there.

His Highness also informed me that the General commanding the Turkish troops on the Drina frontier was making difficulties with regard to the surrender of the Island of Bouyouklitch, near Belina, which from time immemorial had belonged to Servia, and that the Government at Belgrade were not disposed to give up Little Zvornick until the affair was satisfactorily settled.

His Highness stated that he had telegraphed to Constantinople on the subject, where, no doubt, the Turkish Government would see the justice of his claim.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 186.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 15, 1877, 2·50 P.M.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 151 of March 1, when will the remainder of the returns of sentences be furnished?

No. 187.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 15, 4·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, March* 15, 1877, 3 P.M.

GENERAL IGNATIEW tells me that he and his wife start for London by the mail train to-morrow morning, and go to Hatfield on Saturday afternoon.

No. 188.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Serajevo, March* 15, 1877.

STATE of districts of the Banialuka and Bihatch unchanged as far as known. Insurgent bands in all directions. No fresh atrocities heard of here. Emigration reported at Britchka on account of wishes of the troops and authorities, and general discontent.

No. 189.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March* 15, 1877, 5 P.M.

AFTER receiving to-day your Lordship's despatch No. 70 of the 12th instant, I called on the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and found that the Russian Ambassador had just communicated to him a telegram from Prince Gortchakow, stating that all the Powers had accepted the Russian proposal for the signature of a Protocol except Austria, and that her answer was anxiously waited for.

His Excellency said that he had stated in reply, that though ready to agree to sign a Protocol, he could express no opinion on the text of one which he was still officially ignorant of, and respecting which he had only received contradictory telegrams from Austrian Ambassadors at London and Paris. It appeared, however, he said, from Count Beust's reports that Her Majesty's Government had already accepted the principle of the Russian proposals, and he asked whether I was instructed to ascertain his opinion upon them.

I answered that your Lordship had sent me confidentially the draft of a Protocol submitted to you on the 11th instant, by Count Schouvaloff, but without any instructions respecting it, doubtless under an impression that it would be communicated to him by Russian Government, and as he expressed the wish to see it, I showed him confidentially the inclosure in your Lordship's despatch.

After reading them he authorized me to inform you that he accepted in principle the proposal for the signature of a Protocol, but could not say more until he received the text of the draft which may finally be agreed upon by your Lordship and Count Schouvaloff.

No. 190.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 135.) *Foreign Office, March* 15, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 159 of the 2nd instant, respecting the colonization of Circassians in the Greek provinces of Turkey.

Her Majesty's Government have heard with much regret of the turbulent conduct of those colonists, and I have to instruct you to point out to the Porte the impolicy of arousing the resentment of the Greeks and the indignation of Europe, by establishing colonies of persons of such lawless character.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 191.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 148. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March* 15, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch, Confidential, No 131 of the 14th instant, I transmit to you herewith, for your information, a copy of a memorandum given to me by the Russian Ambassador, containing his Excellency's observations and suggestions with regard to the draft Protocol.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

Inclosure in No. 191.

Memorandum communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Schouvaloff, March 15, 1877.

1. Il semblerait insuffisant de n'affirmer qu'une sympathie pour les Chrétiens; il faut qu'elle se manifeste aussi pour les réformes. L'on pourrait dire en conséquence, "et d'affirmer de nouveau ensemble l'intérêt commun qu'elles prennent à l'amélioration du sort des populations Chrétiennes de la Turquie, et aux réformes à introduire en Bosnie, Herzégovine, et Bulgarie."

2. Pour obvier à l'objection de Lord Derby, l'on pourrait dire: "Elles invitent la Porte à le consolider en replaçant ses armées sur le pied de paix, sauf le nombre de troupes indispensables pour le maintien de l'ordre."

3. Afin de ne point trop affaiblir la rédaction Russe, on pourrait dire, "veiller avec soin."

4. Le mot "démarche" a en Français une nuance humiliante. Faire des démarches semble solliciter. On pourrait dire, "les moyens qu'elles jugeront les plus propres." Le mot "moyen" ne peut pas être considéré comme coercitif.

Enfin une dernière observation qui a été omise ce matin. Est-il bien nécessaire d'employer l'expression "les Puissances reconnaissent avec plaisir ou satisfaction." Ne vaudrait-il pas mieux dire simplement, "reconnaissent" ou "constatent?" L'insuccès de la Conférence est trop présent encore à l'esprit des Cabinets, et plusieurs d'entre eux ne voudraient peut-être pas exprimer de la satisfaction.

Si l'énumeration des réformes se fait d'après l'énumération de Safvet Pacha, j'indique le point 6, que l'Angleterre ne voudrait peut-être pas accepter; je propose de la remplacer par les deux mots, "amnistie partielle."

No. 192.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 16.) *Scutari, March* 5, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that a Montenegrin officer arrived here yesterday from Cettigné, in order to superintend the disembarkation at the Port of San Giovanni di Medua of the 1,200,000 okes of Indian corn, for which free transit through this Province and the Lake of Scutari has been conceded by the Ottoman Government to Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 193.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 16, 11·45 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 16, 1877.

MUSURUS, in reporting the conversation with your Lordship respecting the three conditions proposed by General Ignatiew to the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin, said that you had stated that Russia would not be satisfied even if they were complied with.

Porte considers that this statement proves the uselessness of making sacrifices in order to conclude peace with Montenegro.

No. 194.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 16, 1877, 2·30 P.M.

WITH reference to Consul Skene's despatch to you of the 20th February, I have to instruct you strongly to urge the Turkish Government to send immediate orders to Aleppo for the arrest and trial of the persons concerned in the murder of the Cavass of Her Majesty's Consulate at Aleppo, and to ask the Porte for pecuniary indemnity for the family of the murdered man.

No. 195.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Skene.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 16, 1877, 2·30 P.M.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 20th ultimo, Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople has been instructed strongly to urge Turkish Government to send immediate orders to Aleppo for the arrest and trial of the persons concerned in the murder of the Cavass of Her Majesty's Consulate, and to ask Porte for a pecuniary indemnity for his family.

You are authorized to give the widow such immediate relief as her circumstances require.

No. 196.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 16, 1877, 2·45 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of March 14 respecting outrage at Podsarskoe, ascertain and report by telegraph whether Commission has been constituted, and when it will report.

No. 197.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 16.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *Berlin, March* 16, 1877.

GENERAL IGNATIEW has already communicated to German Government the modifications proposed by Her Majesty's Government in his Protocol.

The German Emperor has instructed Prince Bismarck to urge their adoption at St. Petersburgh as strongly as possible.

No. 198.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March* 16, 1877.

I HAVE received the following telegram from Monson:—

"(For Lord Derby.)

"I told Prince Nicholas this afternoon that I learn from Sir A. Buchanan that it is almost certain that an understanding will be arrived at with Russia for the preservation of peace.

"Italian Agent at Ragusa has telegraphed this afternoon to the same effect, adding that the Porte refuses to cede Nichsich and Spuz; and that as rupture of the negotiations may be dreaded, the Italian Government appeals to His Highness' notorious moderation and love of peace to make concessions.

"From all that has passed between me and the Prince, I am sure that it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to persuade him to give up his demands for Nichsich on the side of Herzegovina, and for the Kutchi district on that of Albania.

"He said that he may be brought to relinquish his other pretensions on the side of Albania if he gains what he asks for in the Herzegovina; but I think that it would be advisable to wait for a fresh communication from the Montenegrin Delegates, and to allow His Highness to make the first concessions spontaneously. I venture, therefore, to recommend that Her Majesty's Government should defer for the present instructing me to use pressure, the time for which is not, in my opinion, yet come.

"My Austrian colleague telegraphs in the same sense to the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, and we are entirely agreed as to the steps we should take together."

No. 199.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March* 16, 1877.

THE information I gave privately to Monson, referred to in his telegram last night, was that "from the reports received at Vienna by the newspapers and by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, it seems almost certain that an arrangement will be come to with Russia for the preservation of peace."

No. 200.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 16, 1877, 7 P.M.

I HAVE agreed with the Russian Ambassador on the terms of a Protocol which Her Majesty's Government will be willing to accept on the condition of receiving a formal assurance in writing from the Russian Government that their forces will be demobilized, and on condition that other Governments also accept the Protocol. The Porte will not be called upon to sign.

No. 201.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.†

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 16, 1877, 7·35 P.M.

COPY of the Protocol referred to in my other telegram of to-day is sent to you by post to-night.

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* Similar telegrams were sent to Paris, Rome, Berlin, Vienna, and St. Petersburgh.
† Repeated to Embassies.

No. 202.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 158.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 16, 1877.

ON the receipt this day of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo, reporting the murder of a cavass serving under Her Majesty's Consulate, with the circumstances attending which outrage you will have been acquainted by the despatch addressed to you by Mr. Skene on the 20th ultimo, I instructed you by telegraph strongly to urge the Turkish Government to send immediate orders to Aleppo for the arrest and trial of the persons concerned in the murder of the cavass, and to ask the Porte for a pecuniary indemnity for the family of the murdered man.

I have in the meanwhile instructed Mr. Consul Skene by telegraph to afford such immediate relief to the widow as her circumstances may require.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 203.

*The Earl of Derby to Count Beust.**

(Private.)

Dear Count Beust, *Foreign Office, March* 16, 1877.

I INCLOSE herewith, for your private information, a copy of the Draft Protocol as settled between Count Schouvaloff and me, and accepted by his Excellency *ad referendum* to his Government.

It is understood that the Turkish Government will not be asked to sign the Protocol, that its acceptance by Her Majesty's Government is subject to the assent of the other four Powers; and, further, that Her Majesty's Government can only agree to become parties to it on the condition of receiving a formal assurance in writing from the Russian Government that they will demobilize their forces.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 204.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.†

(No. 71. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, March* 16, 1877.

WITH reference to my previous despatches, Confidential, Nos. 67 and 69 of the 13th instant, I inclose herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of the draft Protocol as settled between the Russian Ambassador and myself, and accepted by Count Schouvaloff *ad referendum* for the approval of his Government.

It was distinctly understood by his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government could only agree to be parties to the Protocol on the condition of receiving a formal assurance in writing from the Russian Government that their forces will be demobilized.

It is not intended that Turkey should be asked to sign the Protocol.

The Protocol of course is accepted subject to the consent of the rest of the Six Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

Inclosure in No. 204.

Protocol.—Draft No. 3 *as agreed to between Lord Derby and Count Schouvaloff.*

LES Puissances qui ont offert leurs bons offices pour la pacification de l'Orient et ont participé dans cette vue à la Conférence de Constantinople, reconnaissent que le moyen le plus sûr d'atteindre le but qu'elles se sont proposé, est de maintenir avant tout l'entente

* Similar letters were addressed to the Marquis d'Harcourt, Count Menabrea, and Count Münster.
† Similar despatches were addressed to Lord Lyons, Lord Odo Russell, Sir A. Buchanan, Sir A. Paget, and Mr. Jocelyn.

si heureusement établie entre elles et d'affirmer de nouveau ensemble l'intérêt commun qu'elles prennent à l'amélioration du sort des populations Chrétiennes de la Turquie, et aux réformes à introduire en Bosnie, Herzégovine, et Bulgarie.

Elles prennent acte de la conclusion de la paix avec la Serbie et le Monténégro.

(Dans le cas où la paix avec le Monténégro n'aurait pas été conclue, rappeler que les Puissances considèrent comme désirable dans l'intérêt d'un arrangement solide et durable la rectification des frontières et la libre navigation de la Boïana.)

Les Puissances considèrent les arrangements intervenues ou à intervenir entre la Porte et les deux Principautés comme une preuve de ses bonnes dispositions et comme un pas accompli vers l'apaisement qui est l'objet de leurs communs désirs.

Elles invitent la Porte à le consolider en replaçant ses armées sur le pied de paix, sauf le nombre de troupes indispensables pour le maintien de l'ordre, et en mettant en œuvre, dans le plus court délai possible, les réformes nécessaires pour la tranquillité et le bien-être des provinces de l'état desquelles la Conférence s'est préoccupée. Elles reconnaissent que la Porte s'est déclarée prête à en réaliser la plus grande partie.

Elles prennent spécialement acte de la déclaration par laquelle le Gouvernement Ottoman a annoncé la résolution de les appliquer, à savoir :—

1. La réorganisation de la gendarmerie dont le projet de règlement a déjà été élaboré et remis à M. Baker, Colonel Anglais, pour être étudié.

2. La division des communes en cantons, division à laquelle il sera procédée aussitôt que les autorités provinciales auront réuni et envoyé à Constantinople les renseignements topographiques qui leur ont été demandés sur les conscriptions communales.

3. L'institution des corps de gendarmerie mixte composés du Musulmans et de Chrétiens—système déjà existant sur plusieurs points de l'Empire.

4. L'admission des sujets non-Musulmans dans les écoles militaires récemment autorisée et décrétée par notre Auguste Maître.

5. La défense de la colonisation en Roumélie de Circassiens en masse et le non-emploi des irréguliers, sauf le cas de force majeure.

6. L'interdiction déjà publiée partout du port d'armes sans une autorisation spéciale.

7. Amnistie partielle.

8. La formation des Commissions Spéciales qui seront incessamment envoyées dans les Vilayets de Bosnie, du Danube, et d'Andrinople.

9. La consécration de la liberté de culte, ainsi que la confirmation et l'application de la décision en vertu de laquelle les affaires litigieuses concernant la religion sont du ressort des Patriarcats.

10. La remise pour les localités éprouvées, et jusqu'au 1er Janvier, 1877, des impôts arriérés, et

11. Les droits de propriété déjà acquis aux Chrétiens en Bosnie et en Herzégovine.

Les lois qui doivent être présentés à la première Session de la Chambre sont les suivantes :—

1. Le règlement intérieur des deux Chambres.
2. La loi électorale définitive.
3. La loi sur la presse.
4. La nouvelle loi des vilayets comprenant la loi des communes.
5. La loi municipale.
6. La loi sur la procédure civile.
7. La loi sur l'organisation des tribunaux.
8. La loi établissant la hiérarchie des Juges, ainsi que les conditions de leur avancement et de leur retraite.
9. La loi concernant les employés civils.
10. Le budget général de l'Empire.

Enfin, 11, le règlement de la nouvelle Cour des Comptes.

En présence de ces bonnes dispositions de la Porte et de son intérêt évident à y donner immédiatement suite, les Puissances se croient fondées à espérer que celle-ci profitera de l'apaisement actuel pour appliquer avec énergie les mesures destinées à apporter à la condition des populations Chrétiennes l'amélioration effective unanimement réclamée comme indispensable à la tranquillité de l'Europe, et, qu'une fois entrée dans cette voie, elle comprendra qu'il est de son honneur, comme de son intérêt, d'y persévérer loyalement et efficacement.

Les Puissances se proposent de veiller avec soin, par l'intermédiaire de leurs Représentants à Constantinople et de leurs Agents locaux, à la façon dont les promesses du Gouvernement Ottoman seront exécutées.

Si leur espoir se trouvait encore une fois déçu et si la condition des sujets Chrétiens du Sultan n'était pas améliorée de manière à prévenir le retour des complications qui troublent périodiquement le repos de l'Orient, elles croient devoir déclarer qu'un tel état de choses serait incompatible avec leurs intérêts et ceux de l'Europe en général. En pareil cas, elles se réservent d'aviser en commun aux moyens qu'elles jugeront les plus propres à assurer le bien-être des populations Chrétiennes et les intérêts de la paix générale.

No. 205.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 4. Consular.)

My Lord, *Rhodes, February 24, 1877.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 3 of the 21st instant, I have the honour to report that the ceremony for reading over the Imperial Firman, appointing his Excellency Sawa Pasha as Governor-General of the Ottoman Archipelago, has taken place at Rhodes on the 22nd instant, amidst a numerous crowd.

On this occasion his Excellency Sawa Pasha addressed to the audience a speech in Turkish and then in Greek, explaining in a few words the Constitution recently promulgated in the Ottoman Empire. His Excellency said that no distinction existing now between Mussulmans, Christians, or Jews, their being only Ottoman subjects, all of them will equally enjoy the same rights and privileges.

Sawa Pasha added that the orders he had received from His Imperial Majesty the Sultan were to devote his attention to the welfare of the population of this vilayet, and that all his efforts will tend to attain this object.

This speech made a great impression on the audience, and was followed by long applause.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHS. BILIOTTI.

No. 206.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 33. Political. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Cettigné, March 8, 1877.*

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch No. 32 of this date, respecting the possibility of Prince Nicholas abandoning his demand for a seaport in deference to Austria, I am bound to add that, in making the statement in question, His Highness spoke very bitterly of Austrian egotism, and characterized her policy towards Montenegro as most unwise.

The Prince said that his invariable experience of the Austrian Government was that it seemed impossible for statesmen at Vienna to be frank and above-board, or to have the courage of their opinions. In dealing with them it was always a matter of fencing and equivocation. They alleged reasons for their policy which were not the true ones, and thought that he was simple enough to be deluded by them. Austria made great professions of goodwill, and expected Montenegro to be grateful for an impalpable protection and an ostentatious patronage.

His Highness said further that the position of Austria rendered her the natural protectress of the Slav populations of the Balkan Peninsula; that the dread and jealousy of Russian encroachment among the Slavs of South-Eastern Europe was indubitable; and that the same sentiment did not exist, or at any rate by no means to the same extent, with regard to Austria. Yet Austria could not, or would not, recognize this, and ignored the growing power of 17,000,000 of her population.

His Highness owned that there was but little union at present among the Slavs of Turkey; but the force of events would, he argued, irresistibly encourage such a union, and it would be a fatal mistake for Austria not to take this into account.

His Highness let drop an expression to the effect that he had allowed the Government at Vienna to understand that he was willing to accept the supremacy of Austria as the future head of the Slav nationalities—a position to which, in his opinion, she is in every way entitled, and which she will be driven to assume in spite of herself—but that he had met with no encouragement.

"Petty Prince as I am," said His Highness, "I can make myself very disagreeable

even to a great Power like Austria, and I think she would be well advised if she abstained from offensive attempts at domineering."

His Highness added much more to the same effect, but I think I have said enough to give your Lordship a fair idea of his sentiments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 207.

Count Andrassy to Count Beust.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Beust, March 17.)

Vienne, le 14 Mars, 1877.

M. le Comte,

J'AI pris connaissance avec intérêt de votre rapport du 7 courant. Sur plusieurs points je partage les réflexions judicieuses de votre Excellence au sujet des lacunes du Traité de Paris de 1856. Il a subi de profondes altérations. Dans son ensemble il ne répond pas à toutes les exigences, mais, à défaut de mieux, il correspond le plus à la situation présente. C'est moins sa valeur intrinsèque que la difficulté de le remplacer qui milite en faveur de son maintien. L'entente aurait peine surtout à s'établir sur une nouvelle garantie de l'intégrité de l'Empire Ottoman. Dès lors, l'abrogation des anciennes transactions ouvrirait la carrière aux rivalités et à l'anarchie. Elle compromettrait davantage encore la paix de l'Europe. Pour ces motifs je dois prier votre Excellence de vouloir bien éviter dans vos entretiens avec les hommes d'Etat de l'Angleterre tout ce qui pourrait leur laisser l'impression que nous poursuivons une révision du Traité dont il s'agit.

Un arrangement direct entre la Russie et la Turquie nous paraît peu probable. De part et d'autre, la méfiance est trop grande, les esprits sont trop montés. D'ailleurs je ne prévois guère que des tentatives éventuelles à cet effet, si elles devaient aboutir, puissent avoir pour résultat un accommodement qui satisfasse les exigences si opposés des deux pays ou qui pourrait être de nature à mettre sérieusement en péril nos intérêts.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) ANDRASSY.

No. 208.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 17*, 1877, 10·40 A.M.

INSTRUCTIONS contained in your Lordship's telegram of yesterday have been already acted upon.

Mr. Skene's report only reached me two days ago, and was immediately communicated to Porte.

Governor of Aleppo has been reprimanded for not reporting circumstance at once by telegraph, and I have told Consul he should have done so also.

Most stringent orders have been sent respecting trial and punishment of murderers. I will press for indemnity to-day.

No. 209.

Memorandum communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Schouvaloff, March 17.

LE Cabinet Impérial accepte le Projet de Protocole avec les modifications suivantes :—

1. En place de : Puissances qui ont offert leurs bons offices.	Les Puissances qui ont entrepris en commun la pacification de l'Orient.

Le résultat de toutes les modifications proposées par Lord Derby ayant très sensiblement affaibli la signification et la portée du Protocole, le Cabinet Impérial propose à son tour quelques changements :—

2. Au lieu de : Affirmer l'intérêt commun.	D'insister sur les réformes qu'elles ont jugés indispensables d'introduire en Bosnie, Herzégovine, et Bulgarie, pour l'amélioration du sort des populations Chrétiennes et que la Porte a acceptées sauf à les appliquer elle-même.
3. A l'Article de la Paix avec le Monténégro ajouter :	Sur la base des conditions proposées par la Conférence.
4. En place de : De l'état desquels la Conférence s'est préoccupée.	Sur les bases suggérées par la Conférence.

En dernier lieu, le Cabinet Impérial croit préférable de substituer à

5. L'énumération des points :	La phrase : Elles prennent spécialement acte des déclarations à ce sujet faites par le Gouvernement Ottoman pendant la Conférence, et depuis par l'entremise de ses Représentants.

(Signé) C^te SCHOUVALOFF.

No. 210.

Memorandum.

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF called upon Lord Derby with General Ignatiew to-day, and after discussing the corrections in the wording of the Protocol which Lord Derby adopted, as shown in the draft of to-day, General Ignatiew suggested that instead of the enumeration of the reforms taken from the Turkish Circular it might be better to insert the following paragraph :—

"Elles prennent spécialement acte des déclarations à ce sujet faites par le Gouvernement Ottoman pendant la Conférence et depuis par l'entremise de ses Représentants."

Lord Derby said that he did not personally see any objection to such an alteration, but as it was an alteration of a material character he felt that he could not adopt it without consulting his colleagues, with whom the present draft had been settled in Cabinet. At the same time if the Russian Government proposed it he did not suppose Her Majesty's Government would make any difficulty in accepting it.

Foreign Office, March 17, 1877.

No. 211.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 17*, 1877.

PODSARKO Commission is now investigating affair, and will report shorly.

Governor of Salonica has arrested Captain of Police in command of troops, alleged to have been engaged in the outrage.

He will be tried on the spot.

Mr. Blunt has spoken strongly to the Pasha, and I have recommended Porte to send the newly-appointly Sub-Governor to attend investigation in order to satisfy public opinion.

No. 212.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 17, 1877.*

FOLLOWING is from Monson dated yesterday:—

"Montenegrin delegates telegraphed last night further answer of Turkish Government.

"For the refugees, it is said that they must confide in the generosity of the Porte.

"As to the rectification of frontier, Porte offers small portion of Zubci, and almost all Baniani; part of Piva along the river of that name, as far as Bit (error in cypher), thence to the nearest point of the Tara, and along that river to Dovolji; thence to Jablanor; thence along the present frontier to Kolaschin. But the Porte demands ultimate cession of Western Kolaschin.

"The freedom of navigation of the Boiana is granted, and the Porte is willing to treat on the *modus vivendi* of 1875.

"Prince telegraphs this afternoon in reply, declaring that, as to the refugees, if the Porte will not engage itself towards him, it must at least do so with Austria, England, and Russia. He must decline respecting Zubci; adheres, roughly speaking, to his demands for Baniani, Niesic, Duga, Piva, and Drobniak; refuses to cede any Montenegrin territory whatever, or to abandon the Kuchi; gives up claim for right bank of Moratcha, and to Spitza; accepts free navigation of Boiana under Montenegrin flag, with stipulations for the maintenance of the channel, and agrees to treat on the proposals of 1875.

"He orders his delegates to inform him whether Porte consents to these conditions, as if it does not, he will send terms of note to be presented, breaking off negotiations, and instructing his delegates to leave Constantinople with all due courtesy. In this case, he will appeal to the Great Powers, and remain on the defensive, in his present position, on the principle of the 'uti possidetis.'"

No. 213.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, March 17, 1877.*

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs much pleased at agreement come to between your Lordship and Russian Ambassador; hopes Russian Government will agree to the condition and has no doubt that the other Powers will accept the Protocol.

The Italian Consul-General at Ragusa having, in compliance with instructions, telegraphed to Prince of Montenegro, urging him to be conciliatory in negotiations, the Prince has replied that the proposition of the neutralization of the territorial concessions of the Porte are illusory, and that the Grand Vizier gives no answer about the repatriation of Herzegovina refugees. He does not therefore intend to ask for prolongation of the armistice. The Minister for Foreign Affairs will inform the Prince of agreement between your Lordship and Russian Ambassador, and hopes he will then see advantage of concluding peace.

No. 214.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 17, 1877, 5·45 P.M.*

A MEMORANDUM of some alterations in the wording of the Draft Protocol is sent to you by post this evening.

No. 215.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 17, 1877, 6·30 P.M.*

RUSSIAN Ambassador, on behalf of his Government, has begged me to advise the Porte to be more conciliatory to Montenegro, representing that peace with Montenegro

* Repeated to Embassies.

is a question of great importance to Turkey and would pave the way to a general improvement of the situation. I have replied that I have already instructed you in this sense, but would repeat the instruction. Advise the Porte accordingly.

No. 216.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Kirby Green.

(No. 8.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 17, 1877.*

YOUR despatch No. 13 of February 26, relative to the state of affairs in Mirdicia, has been received, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve your conduct in this matter, and the steps which you have taken to induce the Mirdite Chiefs not to reject the advances made by Derwish Pasha.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 217.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.**

(No. 75.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, March 17, 1877.*

I INCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, a memorandum showing some alterations which have been made in the wording of the Draft Protocol sent to you yesterday.†

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 218.

Memorandum.

THE following alterations in the draft Protocol sent to you yesterday have been adopted:—

4th Paragraph.—Omit "une preuve de ses bonnes dispositions et comme."

5th Paragraph.—Substitute "une partie importante" for "la plus grande partie."

7th Paragraph.—Omit from "dont le projet" to "étudié."

9th Paragraph.—Omit from "système déjà" to "l'Empire."

10th Paragraph.—Omit from "récemment" to "Maître."

Omit 18th and 11 following paragraphs from "les lois qui doivent" to "Cour des Comptes."

No. 219.

The Earl of Derby to the Marquis d'Harcourt.‡

(Private.) *Foreign Office, March 17, 1877.*

LORD DERBY presents his compliments to the French Ambassador, and has the honour to transmit to his Excellency a revised copy of the Protocol forwarded to him yesterday.

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* Identic despatches were addressed to Mr. Jocelyn, Lord Lyons, Sir A. Paget, Lord Odo Russell, and Sir A. Buchanan.

† No. 218.

‡ Similar letters were addressed to Count Beust, Count Münster, and General Menabrea.

No. 220.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.[a]

(No. 169 B.)

Foreign Office, March 17, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE to acquaint your Excellency that I yesterday communicated privately to the French Ambassador at this Court a copy of the Draft Protocol on the affairs of Turkey as settled between Count Schouvaloff and myself, and accepted by his Excellency *ad referendum* to his Government.

I stated in the private note forwarding the draft that it was understood that the Turkish Government would not be asked to sign the Protocol, that its acceptance by Her Majesty's Government was subject to the assent of the other four Powers, and further that Her Majesty's Government could only agree to become parties to it on the condition of receiving a formal assurance in writing from the Russian Government that they will demobilize their forces.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 221.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 83.)

Foreign Office, March 17, 1877.

Sir,

COUNT BEUST informed me to-day that Count Andrassy had instructed him to state that the Austro-Hungarian Government would express no opinion upon the proposed Protocol respecting the execution of reforms in Turkey until they should have seen the text in its final shape; but that in the meantime no doubt should be allowed to exist as to their adhesion in principle to the signature of a Protocol, or as to the sincerity of their hope that the negotiations respecting the signature would be successful.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 222.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 99.)

Foreign Office, March 17, 1877.

My Lord,

HER Majesty's Government have learnt with sincere satisfaction from your Excellency's telegram of yesterday that the Emperor of Germany has instructed Prince Bismarck to urge, as strongly as possible, at St. Petersburgh the adoption of the modifications which they have suggested in the Protocol respecting Turkish reforms, submitted to them by the Russian Government, and it is their wish that you should express their thanks for the friendly support which has been given to their proposals.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 223.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 18.)

(No. 78.)

Rome, March 10, 1877.

My Lord,

AS M. Melegari mentioned to me that he had heard a report that Her Majesty's Government had discouraged General Ignatiew's visit to London, I thought it right to acquaint his Excellency, in an interview I had with him this morning, with the unqualified contradiction given to this rumour in your Lordship's telegram of yesterday to Her Majesty's Ambassador in Berlin.

M. Melegari expressed himself satisfied with what he had heard from Paris as to the language held by General Ignatiew to the Duc Decazes, and hopeful that the proposals of

[a] Identic despatches were addressed to Sir A. Buchanan, Sir A. Paget, and Lord Odo Russell.

Russia would render possible the maintenance of the general agreement amongst the Powers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 224.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 18.)

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, March 17, 1877.

PLEASE repeat your telegram of yesterday relating to the Protocol. May I communicate it to the Porte?

No. 225.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 18.)

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, March 17, 1877.

A PORTION of the information required respecting sentences forwarded by messenger yesterday, but it is not complete; yet no effort has been spared to obtain it, but the greatest difficulties have been encountered.

Hope to conclude Adrianople returns next week, but cannot speak with certainty about those from Tirnova.

No. 226.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 18.)

(Telegraphic.)

Belgrade, March 17, 1877, 10 P.M.

PERTEW EFFENDI arrived two days ago.

Questions are being discussed respecting reading of Firman in public, saluting Turkish flag, and frontier on the Drina.

Turkish Delegate awaits instructions from Constantinople.

No. 227.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, March 18, 1877, 2·15 P.M.

IN reply to your telegram of yesterday you may let the Porte know confidentially what is going on about the Protocol, but you should not communicate officially with the Porte on the subject.

No official communications have yet been made by Her Majesty's Government to other Powers.

No. 228.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 18.)

(Telegraphic.)

(Confidential.)

St. Petersburgh, March 18, 1877.

I AM privately informed that the Bank of France has agreed to advance twenty millions sterling to the Russian Government on the security of Russian Government paper.

No. 229.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 18, 1877, 6·15 P.M.

THE Austrian Ambassador says that the Russian Government has counselled Montenegro to give way on the question of peace, and that the Austrian Government will do so also, and he requests Her Majesty's Government to join.

Monson should give similar advice to that which the others are instructed to give in counselling moderation in demands of Montenegro.

I have instructed Mr. Jocelyn to advise Porte to be conciliatory.

No. 230.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 85.) *Foreign Office, March* 18, 1877.

Sir,

I LEARN from Count Beust that the Austro-Hungarian Agent at Cettigné has telegraphed to Vienna that advice was received from St. Petersburgh on the 12th instant by Prince Nicholas that he should give way on the disputed points in the peace negotiations. His Excellency added that he had been instructed to express the hope that the British Agent at Cettigné would be instructed to support the efforts which his Austro-Hungarian colleague was being instructed to make to induce the Prince to accept this advice.

I have to-day requested your Excellency by telegraph to instruct Mr. Monson to give similar advice to that which his colleagues are instructed to give in counselling moderation in the Montenegrin demands; and I have at the same time telegraphed to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, directing him to impress upon the Porte the expediency of adopting a conciliatory attitude in the pending negotiations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 231.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 164.) *Foreign Office, March* 18, 1877.

Sir,

IN reply to your inquiry by telegraph whether you were at liberty to communicate to the Porte the substance of my telegram of the 16th instant, relative to the proposed Protocol for signature by the Powers, I instructed you this day by telegraph that you might inform the Turkish Government confidentially of the negotiations now being carried on with this object, but that you should not make any official communication to the Porte on the subject.

I added that no official communications had as yet been made by Her Majesty's Government to the other Powers relative to this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 232.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 95.) *St. Petersburgh, March* 1, 1877.

My Lord,

WHEN I suggested to Tefvik Bey, the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, as reported in my despatch No. 87 of the 27th ultimo, the idea of recommending to the Porte, on the conclusion of peace with Servia and Montenegro, to accompany its announcement to the Powers with a notification of the reforms to be immediately put in execution, and of its intention to reduce its army, I took especial care to mention to him that no reference should be made to the Russian armaments, nor any allusion to any reciprocal disarmament on the part of Russia, expressing to him a very strong opinion that any such reference or demand on the part of Turkey would be ill viewed by the Imperial Government, and might produce the very opposite result to that which was desired.

Tefvik Bey quite understood the motive and force of my observation, and promised that it should be clearly represented to his Government in the light I had mentioned.

On receiving this day Sir Augustus Paget's telegram from your Lordship, reporting, on the authority of the Italian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, his belief that the Porte intended to summon Russia to disarm, I ventured to express to your Lordship, in my telegram of this day, my conviction that any such summons, or even any proposition however conciliatory, for a simultaneous disarmament, would be resented by Russia, and lead to immediate war.

I may inform your Lordship that having carefully mentioned in conversation with Prince Gortchakow the suggestion I subsequently made to the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires as a means of facilitating peace, his Highness at once expressed his approval, adding, however, that any reference by the Porte to a Russian disarmament would be viewed as a "sommation," and would produce evil rather than good.

It is therefore to be hoped that the Porte will carefully abstain from any mention of or reference to the Russian armaments; and that, should it happily be enabled to announce its own intention to disarm, it will leave entirely to the initiative of the Imperial Government to adopt a reciprocal course.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 233.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 9. Political.) *Salonica, March* 2, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires reporting a conversation I have held with my Greek colleague relative to the increase of brigandage in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 233.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Jocelyn.

Sir, *Salonica, March* 2, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to report that my Greek colleague, M. Vatikioti, called on me two or three days ago and complained that some members of the local administration entertained and encouraged the suspicion that the recent increase of brigandage in Macedonia was connected with some Greek political movement against Turkey, and added, that the Greek Government and nation, far from giving any encouragement and countenance to any such movement, were doing their best to cultivate good relations with Turkey.

I told my colleague that in the course of the conversations which I have had with the Pasha of Salonica on the subject of brigandage, he did not appear to me to entertain the suspicion to which he, M. Vatikioti, had referred, that, on the contrary, the Pasha on more than one occasion spoke to me in terms of praise and satisfaction of the pacific policy and loyal attitude of the Greek Government during the recent disturbances in the Sclave provinces; but that he thought that the same insurrectionary committees which had succeeded in disturbing the public peace in the Sclave provinces were now trying to create the same unsatisfactory state of affairs in the Greek provinces of Turkey.

M. Vatikioti then proposed, and I encouraged his calling on the Pasha to speak to him on the subject, and to assure him that his Government was taking active and stringent measures against the revival of brigandage on the frontier, and I have since been informed by him that he has had a very satisfactory interview with the Pasha on the subject of our conversation.

The Greek Consul-General appears very anxious to impress upon the Ottoman authorities here that the policy of his Government is pacific and well disposed to Turkey, and that the latter has no reason to apprehend any hostile or disturbing action from the Greek side. He has asked me to speak in this sense to the Pasha, and I assured him that

I would continue to do my best to promote confidence and friendly feelings between the border authorities and communities of both countries.

The Pasha and leading men here with whom I come in contact speak highly of the policy which has been pursued by the Greek Government throughout the late crisis.

On the other hand, they say that the present increase of brigandage has every appearance of being encouraged by foreign agencies, not Greek, as I have already remarked, but Russian or Panslave, whose object is to create agitation and disturbances in these provinces, in order to further embarrass the Sultan's Government at a moment it is earnestly trying to pacify the disaffected districts, and prove to the Great Powers which take an interest in the integrity and independence of Turkey, its determination to introduce and carry out reforms.

They are disposed to connect the sudden appearance of bands of robbers in the Greek provinces of Turkey with General Ignatiew's late visit to Athens, and suspect that some Sclave political committee has been formed at Athens for the purpose of organizing brigandage on a large scale across the border.

It is a significant fact, they say, that it was very shortly after General Ignatiew's visit that Greek bands of robbers began to reappear in these parts.

I shall also forward a copy of this report to Her Majesty's Minister at Athens.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 234.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 19.)

(No. 10. Political.)

Salonica, March 5, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of a despatch which I addressed on the 3rd instant to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, transmitting a copy of a letter from Mr. Vice-Consul Suter, of which I also inclose a copy, relative to the increase of brigandage in Thessaly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 234.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Jocelyn.

Salonica, March 3, 1877.

Sir,

IN inclosing a copy of a letter from Mr. Vice-Consul Suter, which I received after writing my report of the 2nd instant upon the increase of brigandage in the Greek provinces of Turkey, I most respectfully beg leave to recommend to your consideration and support Mr. Suter's suggestion, that Mehmet Ali Pasha, the present Commander-in-chief of the army at Novibazaar, should be ordered to resume his former post of Imperial Commissioner for the suppression of brigandage in Epirus, Macedonia, and Thessaly.

During his services in the above capacity in 1874 and 1875, Mehmet Pasha showed indefatigable zeal and vigour in prosecuting notorious offenders, and was most successful in suppressing brigandage and establishing general order and security in these frontier provinces.

I also venture to report that the Ottoman Government should lose no time in adopting vigorous measures, in view of strong symptoms which manifest that brigandage will assume very serious dimensions this year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 234.

Vice-Consul Suter to Consul Blunt.

Larissa, February 28, 1877.

Sir,

BRIGANDAGE seems daily on the increase in Thessaly as well as in your quarter, and if it goes on at the rate it recently has been doing, is likely by next summer to obtain some of its former formidable dimensions in this direction.

Our Mutessarif, who is active and diligent, is doing his best to check the evil, and to all appearances is well seconded by the Greek frontier authorities. But taking for granted that the latter may be sincere in their intentions, I doubt that even united efforts can arrest its progress, more especially now that your Vali is calling in Bashi-Bazouks* and Circassian assistance, and I hold the opinion that the only chance of effectually nipping the mischief in the bud may be at once bringing back Mehmet Ali Pasha to resume his former charge in this direction.

He cannot be indispensable, supposing him even very useful, where he is at present, and how better could he be employed than in the task for which he is unequalled, of preventing this country lapsing into its former deplorable condition from brigandage? I would suggest your urging this arrangement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. SUTER.

No. 235.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 19.)

(No. 11. Political.)

Salonica, March 6, 1877.

My Lord,

IN continuation of the correspondence which I forwarded to your Lordship in my despatch No. 7 of the 22nd ultimo, I have the honour to inclose a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Suter reporting that the authorities in Thessaly have no intention of resorting to the services of Bashi-Bazouks or Circassians for police purposes.

The number of troops in garrison in Thessaly, not including the police, the strength of which is about 1,300 men, is between 7,000 and 8,000 men, mostly infantry Redifs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 235.

Vice-Consul Suter to Consul Blunt.

Larissa, February 28, 1877.

Sir,

I AM to acknowledge the receipt on the 26th instant of your despatch of the 21st idem, requiring me to report to you by telegraph immediately I hear of any intention here, on the part of the local authorities, to resort to the services of Bashi-Bazouks or of Circassians for police purposes in this district; and, should need be, I will be careful to comply with that instruction.

Meanwhile, I may state that Djavid Pasha, the Moutessarif, Governor of Thessaly, affirms, and I so learn on inquiry in other directions, that, as often before has been reported, since the police force in Thessaly is of the strength of nearly 1,200 effective foot, and over 100 horse gendarmerie, which is ample for every purpose, no necessity exists for nor is there any intention whatever of having recourse to the expediency alluded to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. SUTER.

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* Mr. Suter refers to the late project of the Salonica authorities to employ these irregulars against the brigands in Catterina and Veria districts, but which has been abandoned, as I have already reported.—J. E. B.

No. 236.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 12. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, March 6, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose for the information of your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I addressed on the 2nd instant to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople relative to the outrages which, it is alleged, have been recently perpetrated in the village of Potzarsko, by Turks of the neighbouring villages.

The Pasha of Salonica has called upon the Greek Metropolitan to depute a member of his community to attend the Commission which is about to proceed to Potzarsko for the purpose of inquiring into the grievances of the inhabitants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 236.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Jocelyn.

Sir, *Salonica, March 2, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the peasants of Potzarsko, a large Bulgarian village, five hours distant from Vodina in this vilayet have lately addressed to the Pasha of Salonica, through the Greek Metropolitan, a petition in which they complain that a certain Bekir Pehlivan, and Osman Agha, a captain of the district police, accompanied by a great number of armed Turks from the neighbouring villages, surrounded their village, and after cruelly illtreating and outraging its inhabitants, forcibly took from them all their valuables in payment of the tithe money they owed to the above-named Bekir Pehlivan, and his two partners Metzo and Molla Ahmet.

I very much regret that I have no one at Vodina to whom I can apply for reliable information on this case; and it is very difficult to sift such matters here in which people will not, or are afraid to, speak the truth.

The Pasha has telegraphed to the Kaimakam of Vodina for a full report; and has approved of my suggestion to dispatch to Potzarsko two members of the local Grand Council (a Turk and a Christian) to ascertain the grievances complained of by its inhabitants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 237.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 13. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, March 6, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I addressed on the 5th instant to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, relative to the elections of six deputies for the new Assembly at the Capital.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 237.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Jocelyn.

Sir, *Salonica, March 5, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to report that six deputies have been elected to represent the Vilayet of Salonica in the new Chamber about to meet at Constantinople, and will leave this by to-day's mail steamer for the Capital.

Their names are:—

Ibrahim Bey, Mahommedan; Tahir Omer Bey, Mahommedan; Ismail Bey, Mahommedan.

Mihalaki Bey, Christian (Greek); Papasoglo Vassilaki Effendi, Christian (Greek); Stephano Tati Effendi, Christian (Greek).

The elections of these deputies were only concluded on the 6th of February, and from all I hear the Mahommedan and Christian communities are satisfied with the result.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 238.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 14. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, March 6, 1877.*

ON the 3rd instant I received from Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney, and immediately telegraphed in cypher to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affairs at Constantinople, a cyphered telegram, of which the following is the substance:—

"Mr. Kipriotis (British Consular Agent at Janina) has reason to believe in the existence of a scheme to foster rising in Epirus, the first outbreak to take place in Chimara, and afterwards in Tsoumerica, Radowitz, and Sulli."

From the confidential inquiries which I have made here, the authorities appear to have no information to confirm this suspicion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 239.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 102. Confidential.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March 6, 1877.*

I HAD the honour to report to your Lordship, by my telegram of the 3rd instant, that General Ignatiew left this on the previous day for London.

His Excellency has been suffering for some time from ophthalmia, and has been recommended to consult an oculist of high repute in London.

This was the ostensible object of his visit, but in connection with it there was evidently a political purpose in view.

I was subsequently informed that General Ignatiew was charged with a special mission to the Courts of London, Paris, Berlin, and Vienna, and that Prince Gortchakow in announcing this mission to the Italian Ambassador at this Court, expressed his regret that the extreme distance prevented his going likewise to Rome.

In referring to the mission of General Ignatiew to London, Prince Gortchakow, I am informed, expressed his entire confidence in the acceptance by Germany of any arrangement made by Russia with England in regard to Eastern affairs, and considered that any arrangement supported by England and Germany would likewise secure the adhesion of Austria and the other Powers.

His first and principal object therefore appears to have been to come to an agreement with Her Majesty's Government, which virtually amounts to a reversal of the policy pursued by the Imperial Government on the occasion of the Berlin Memorandum.

From private information I have received, I am disposed to believe that General Ignatiew will use his best efforts to obtain the assent of Her Majesty's Government to the proposal with which he is charged, and that these efforts will be stimulated by the hope of obtaining at no distant date the Embassy in London, which has long been the object of his ambition.

I am further disposed to believe that the mission of General Ignatiew has been in a great measure promoted by the sincere desire of the Emperor Alexander to be relieved from the anxious responsibility of war,—an eventuality which cannot yet be regarded as entirely averted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 240.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 102 A.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March 6, 1877.*

AFTER despatching my telegram of to-day, I was informed this evening that the projected mission of General Ignatiew to London had been abandoned in consequence of a telegram received from Count Schouvaloff, which arrived here in time before the General's departure, to alter the arrangements previously made.

It was then decided that General Ignatiew, after communicating with Prince Bismarck at Berlin, should proceed to Paris, where Count Schouvaloff was instructed to meet him, and to receive the verbal instructions with which he was charged.

General Ignatiew will await at Paris the result of the negotiations in London, and will then proceed to Vienna.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 241.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 106.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March 8, 1877.*

I HAD an interview with Prince Gortchakow to-day. His Highness observed to me that, from intelligence he had received from London, there appeared to be a general feeling that Russia had given up any idea of war, and that the order for demobilization had been already issued.

He cautioned me against giving credence to and reporting to Her Majesty's Government the false rumours of every kind which were current here, and which were calculated to counteract rather than promote the cause of peace.

Prince Gortchakow said that the Imperial Government was most desirous of arriving at a pacific arrangement, but that they would not disarm without some guarantee for the amelioration of the condition of the Christians in Turkey.

It was with this view, His Highness said, that a proposal would be submitted to Her Majesty's Government, which he expressly stated was not to be viewed as an ultimatum, but was open to deliberation, and to be modified, as might be judged advisable, in conformity with the views of Her Majesty's Government.

Prince Gortchakoff stated that Prince Bismarck had expressed his entire concurrence in this proposal, and his readiness to affix his signature to it.

His Highness added that Count Schouvaloff would meet General Ignatiew at Paris, where he was expected to arrive to-day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 242.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 111. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March 14, 1877.*

IN a private conversation I lately had with the Imperial Minister of Finance, I inquired whether it were true that several Foreign Agents had lately offered to the Imperial Government a loan to a large amount on very advantageous terms.

His Excellency replied that it was perfectly true that he had received from several foreign sources offers of a loan on very advantageous terms. He had declined them, observing that at the present time all Russian stock was very depreciated, and that it was not a propitious moment to effect a foreign loan. He stated that he had even received, and was daily receiving, offers both from Dutch and French firms; and he showed me a letter he had that morning received (I believe from Paris), in which I read the two lines, offering a loan of 300,000,000 or 400,000,000 fr.; but his Excellency did not refer to the conditions on which the loan was offered.

I am told, however, that in regard to the offers from Paris, the condition of maintaining peace was strongly accentuated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 243.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 112.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March 14, 1877.*

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW informed me this morning that at the request of your Lordship, conveyed through Count Schouvaloff, he had telegraphed to Constantinople, as well as to Cettigné, to counsel moderation in the demands of the Montenegrin Delegates, and to advise Prince Nicholas to bring about a satisfactory arrangement with the Porte.

The Prince of Montenegro had replied that he was most anxious to do so, but that the terms offered by the Porte were such as he could not accept. He preferred to remain in his present position rather than agree to unreasonable conditions.

Prince Nicholas added that he should refer the question to England, who had evinced a most friendly disposition towards him.

Prince Gortchakow stated that Prince Nicholas, in the event of a rupture of the negotiations, would remain on the defensive, and maintain his position of *uti possidetis*.

It is to be regretted that the Porte should have summoned Moukhtar Pasha to Constantinople to take part in these negotiations, being the Turkish General who had suffered frequent defeats by the Montenegrins.

Prince Gortchakow expressed a sincere desire for the conclusion of peace between Turkey and Montenegro, observing that Russia had incurred, and was now incurring, a large expenditure for the maintenance of the refugees who had fled to Montenegro for safety.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 244.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 113. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March 14, 1877.*

I HAD an interview with Prince Gortchakow this morning, and found his Highness under the impression of satisfactory intelligence he had received from General Ignatiew of his reception at Berlin and Paris.

Prince Gortchakow observed that the present was a critical moment; but he seemed to regard the issue of the crisis as hopeful and pacific.

His Highness said that the Russian press viewed the solution as being that of "guerre" or "guarantee." The latter was contained in the Protocol proposed by Russia, and which had been favourably viewed at Berlin and Paris.

He spoke with satisfaction of the reports he had received from Count Schouvaloff, stating that the Protocol in principle had found favour with Her Majesty's Government.

He alluded to a disarmament by Turkey, and considered it as a necessary prelude to a demobilization of the Russian army.

I here observed to his Highness that the question of armament and disarmament had hitherto invariably led to war, and that it was therefore desirable, if possible, that it should not be mooted. When a satisfactory arrangement was concluded, it was evident there would be no necessity for keeping up armies on the war footing, and, consequently, both parties would be desirous of relieving themselves from the heavy charges they imposed.

I could perceive that his Highness was more than ever desirous that the Eastern complication should be settled by the maintenance of peace and of the European concert.

His principal fear appeared to be in the continued resistance of the Porte to the counsels of the Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 245.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 19.)

(No. 41.)
My Lord, *Athens, March* 10, 1877.

IT was stated a few days ago in the "Hora" newspaper that on the 22nd ultimo seven men, whose names were given, had met in a small chapel in the neighbourhood of Stylis on the Greek side of the frontier, and taken the oath of brotherhood, and that they had then armed themselves with a view to brigandage, but that measures had been taken on both sides of the frontier with a view to their capture.

A subsequent number of the "Hora" (of March 8) states that an official communication, which had been published by the Procureur du Roi at Lamia, represents the seven men in question as Ottoman subjects, who had come from Albania towards the end of October last to a place near Stylis, where, in conjunction with others, they had been engaged in the manufacture and sale of charcoal; and as having told their friends when they left that they were going to Turkey. According to the Procureur's communication, three of them took their guns with them, the others were unarmed, and no oath of brotherhood was taken.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART.

No. 246.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 19.)

(No. 42.)
My Lord, *Athens, March* 10, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to report that M. Deligeorges was sent for by the King on Thursday the 8th instant and intrusted with the formation of a Cabinet, in consequence of the resignation of M. Coumoundouros and his colleagues.

The new Cabinet, which was sworn in this forenoon, is composed as follows:—

M. Ep. Deligeorges, Premier, and Minister for Foreign Affairs, and *ad interim* of the Interior;
M. D. Levides, Minister of Finance;
M. G. Lochios, Minister of Marine;
M. A. Mavromichalis, Minister of War;
M. Thanos Kanakares, Minister of Worship and Public Instruction; and
M. Spilio Autonopoulos, Minister of Justice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART.

No. 247.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 19.)

(No. 3. Political.)
My Lord, *Rustchuk, March* 14, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith inclosed copy of a despatch addressed by me yesterday to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure in No. 247.

Consul Reade to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Rustchuk, March* 13, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 6th instant, I have the honour to report that the condition of the province as reported in the above despatch continues to be as unsatisfactory as ever.

Reports of robbery and violence continue to reach this place almost daily, and many, if not most of them, are committed by Circassians who appear to be as before under no sort of control, and the despair of the natives is getting more and more intense.

I am told that the Turks openly say that, if they are not able to carry out reforms and the country continues as it is at present, the fault is with Russia, whose threatening attitude obliges them (the Turks) to concentrate all their attention in their defence.

I have been informed by a gentleman here, who has been in fact consulted by some young Bulgarians on a matter which I hasten to report to you:—

It appears that the Russian Consul-General here is endeavouring to induce the young Bulgarians of this vilayet to proceed to Kischeneff to join, or be with, the Russian army there. He has already sent off some (I have not been able to ascertain how many) and is doing all he can to persuade as many as possible to follow. Two of these were last week dispatched to Bucharest, but as the Consul-General there made some difficulties they returned, and immediately went to his colleague here who wanted them to go to Galatz for the same purpose, but as they were in a state of doubt they consulted my informant, who advised them to return and remain quiet at home.

These young men are told to say that they are going to Russia for the purpose of entering some military school, but I am told that the real object is to get as many as possible to go to the Russians so as to enable the latter to say to Europe that not being able to remain in their country from the injustice and oppression that prevails there, these Bulgarians are forced to seek Russian protection.

I have also been informed that Russian emissaries are again at work inland, and amongst other things it is said that they are working hard with the object of getting up another insurrection, and Gabrova is named as the principal point selected by them.

There is another matter that merits the attention of the Porte; at Bucharest, and other places of Roumania, there are a considerable number of Bulgarians who have come there from Servia, but who cannot return to this province, and as they are now almost starving they are easily talked over by Russian emissaries.

As most of these people were in fact forced to join Servia, it is undoubtedly in the interest of the Porte to grant them an amnesty, for if not they are sure to go to the Russians, if only to escape starvation.

I am, moreover, assured that from the present war and other levies, even the Mussulmans cannot hold out more than a few months longer at the utmost.

In short, the present policy of the Turks in this quarter appears to be just that of Russia, which is to keep up in Turkey a state of disorder and discontent which, if prolonged, can only lead to the break up of the Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 248.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 19.)

(No. 102. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, March* 16, 1877.

I HAVE been very confidentially informed that General Ignatiew has already communicated to the German Government the modifications proposed by Her Majesty's Government in the Protocol submitted to your Lordship by Count Schouvaloff.

The German Emperor, my informant tells me, has instructed Prince Bismarck to urge their adoption at St. Petersburgh, through General von Schweinitz, as strongly as possible, and His Majesty has written in the same sense himself to his nephew the Czar.

The Emperor is of opinion that the Russian Government will proceed without loss of time to demobilize their army as soon as the Protocol is adopted and signed by the Powers.

I am bound to add that this opinion is not shared by military men in Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 249.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, March 19.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 17 Mars*, 1877.

NOUS n'avons pas pu connaître jusqu'ici la véritable mission du Général Ignatiew. Les Cabinets paraissaient avoir pris à tâche à nous la cacher soigneusement. M. de Bülow, à qui notre Chargé d'Affaires à Berlin avait demandé par indiscrétion la nature de la mission confiée au Général, a répondu qu'il l'ignorait complétement. Le Duc Decazes n'a pas cru devoir satisfaire non plus la curiosité de Nasri Bey. Seul M. Melegari a eu la naïveté d'attribuer au voyage de l'Ambassadeur de Russie quelque portée politique sans s'expliquer davantage. Les explications de Lord Derby même ne sont pas de nature à dissiper entièrement nos doutes et nos inquiétudes à cet égard. Tout ce que nous comprenons de différentes rumeurs qui circulent à ce sujet c'est qu'on prépare pour nous quelque mesure afin de nous obliger à exécuter, dans un délai fixé par les Cabinets, les réformes promises par nous dans la Conférence. Nous ne savons non plus si la question de désarmement de la Russie simultanément avec nous est agitée à cette occasion. Nous ignorons également quelles sont les mesures projetées; seraient-elles comme les dispositions prises à Constantinople dans les réunions préliminaires des Plénipotentiaires en notre absence et sans nous consulter préalablement? Je prie très-instamment votre Excellence de vouloir bien m'éclairer sur tout ce qui se rattache à ces points importants et me télégraphier vos renseignements pour que nous n'arrivons pas au dernier moment.

No. 250.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, March 19.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 17 Mars*, 1877.

REÇU télégramme.

Veuillez prier instamment Lord Derby de vouloir bien différer la signature de l'Acte signalé dans le dit télégramme. Je m'empresserai de vous faire connaître nos considérations, ainsi que notre manière de voir à l'égard de certaines dispositions qu'on se propose de prendre concernant l'exécution des réformes promises par la Sublime Porte.

No. 251.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 19, 11·15 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March* 18, 1877, 11 P.M.

FOLLOWING is from Monson, dated to-day:—

Italian Government yesterday telegraphed to Prince Nicholas to the effect that he is not sufficiently conciliatory.

His Highness replied that he hopes the Italian Government will tell him what they wish him to do.

I told him this morning that the news by the last mail indicated an approaching understanding between the Great Powers, and he seems quite aware of the fact.

I see no reason to press him more urgently.

No. 252.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, March* 19, 1877, 10·5 A.M.

I HAVE been informed confidentially that the Grand Vizier has telegraphed to the Commander-in-chief here that the Porte, rather than accord present demands of Montenegrin delegates, will resume hostilities; and his Highness has asked the Commander-in-chief how many battalions he requires to undertake a successful campaign against the Principality.

Telegraphed to Constantinople.

No. 253.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, March* 19, 1877.

I HAVE given a copy of the Protocol and read your Excellency's despatch No. 102 of the 16th instant, to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who said that the Italian Government would give its assent to the Protocol, when officially asked for it.

No. 254.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 19, 1877, 4 P.M.

WITH reference to Consul Green's telegram of to-day, repeated to you, strongly advise the Porte not to resume hostilities with Montenegro.

No. 255.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 19, 1877, 4·5 P.M.

HAVE you received any report of recent outrages in villages near Adrianople reported in "Times" letter of March 6? If not, desire Vice-Consul at Adrianople to make inquiries.

No. 256.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 19.)

(Telegraphic.) (Confidential.) *Vienna, March* 19, 1877, 8·15 P.M.

COUNT ANDRASSY considers the draft of Protocol, inclosed in your Lordship's despatch No. 77 of the 16th instant, as acceptable. He regrets, however, that it contains no reference to the refugees, and he may possibly propose that a clause with respect to them should be inserted.

No. 257.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 165.) *Foreign Office, March* 19, 1877.

Sir,

I RECEIVED to-day a telegram from Her Majesty's Consul at Scutari, stating that he had been informed confidentially that the Grand Vizier had telegraphed to the Commander-in-chief at that place that the Porte, rather than accord the present demands of the Montenegrin delegates, would resume hostilities, and asking the Commander-in-chief how many battalions he requires to undertake a successful campaign against the Principality.

This telegram was repeated to you by Mr. Consul Kirby Green, and with reference to it, I instructed you by telegraph to-day to strongly advise the Porte not to resume hostilities with Montenegro.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 258.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 19, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 19, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 196, sent by messenger, Friday, and to my telegram of the 17th, respecting the sentences passed on Bulgarians, Vice-Consul at Adrianople telegraphs following, dated to-day:—

"Governor-General made a written translation of the last list; there were 11 executed for insurrection last spring, sentenced by Adrianople Special Court in July; 2 for the Eskizagra affair by local tribunal of Adrianople in May; 13 sentences of death, 6 of various terms, by above Court. Correct list will follow."

The return, therefore, inclosed in my despatch above mentioned is incorrect, and should not be published; correct list mentioned by the Consul will be forwarded as soon as received.

No. 259.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.**

(No. 76.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, March* 19, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 75 of the 17th instant, I transmit to your Excellency herewith, a printed copy of a fourth draft of the Protocol proposed for the signature of the Powers.

This draft includes the amendments agreed upon by Count Schouvaloff and myself on the 17th instant.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

Inclosure in No. 259.

Protocol.—Draft No. 4 as agreed to between Lord Derby and Count Schouvaloff.

(Amendments adopted March 17th.)

LES Puissances qui ont offert leurs bons offices pour la pacification de l'Orient et ont participé dans cette vue à la Conférence de Constantinople, reconnaissent que le moyen le plus sûr d'atteindre le but qu'elles se sont proposé, est de maintenir avant tout l'entente si heureusement établie entre elles et d'affirmer de nouveau ensemble l'intérêt commun qu'elles prennent à l'amélioration du sort des populations Chrétiennes de la Turquie, et aux réformes à introduire en Bosnie, Herzégovine, et Bulgarie.

Elles prennent acte de la conclusion de la paix avec la Serbie et le Monténégro.

(Dans le cas où la paix avec le Monténégro n'aurait pas été conclue, rappeler que les Puissances considèrent comme désirable dans l'intérêt d'un arrangement solide et durable la rectification des frontières et la libre navigation de la Boïana.)

Les Puissances considèrent les arrangements intervenues ou à intervenir entre la Porte et les deux Principautés comme un pas accompli vers l'apaisement qui est l'objet de leurs communs désirs.

Elles invitent la Porte à le consolider en replaçant ses armées sur le pied de paix, sauf le nombre de troupes indispensables pour le maintien de l'ordre, et en mettant en œuvre, dans le plus court délai possible, les réformes nécessaires pour la tranquillité et le bien-être des provinces de l'état desquelles la Conférence s'est préoccupée. Elles reconnaissent que la Porte s'est déclarée prête à en réaliser une partie importante.

Elles prennent spécialement acte de la déclaration par laquelle le Gouvernement Ottoman a annoncé la résolution de les appliquer, à savoir:—

1. La réorganisation de la gendarmerie.

2. La division des communes en cantons, division à laquelle il sera procédée aussitôt que les autorités provinciales auront réuni et envoyé à Constantinople les renseignements topographiques qui leur ont été demandés sur les circonscriptions communales.

3. L'institution de corps de gendarmerie mixte composés de Musulmans et de Chrétiens.

* Identic despatches were addressed to Mr. Jocelyn, Lord Lyons, Sir A. Paget, Lord Odo Russell, and Sir A. Buchanan.

4. L'admission des sujets non-Musulmans dans les écoles militaires.

5. La défense de la colonisation en Roumélie de Circassiens en masse, et le non-emploi des irréguliers, sauf le cas de force majeure.

6. L'interdiction déjà publiée partout du port d'armes sans une autorisation spéciale.

7. Amnistie partielle.

8. La formation des Commissions Spéciales qui seront incessamment envoyées dans les Vilayets de Bosnie, du Danube, et d'Andrinople.

9. La consécration de la liberté de culte, ainsi que la confirmation et l'application de la décision en vertu de laquelle les affaires litigieuses concernant la religion sont du ressort des Patriarcats.

10. La remise pour les localités éprouvées, et jusqu'au 1er Janvier, 1877, des impôts arriérés, et

11. Les droits de propriété déjà acquis aux Chrétiens en Bosnie et en Herzégovine.

En présence de ces bonnes dispositions de la Porte et de son intérêt évident à y donner immédiatement suite, les Puissances se croient fondées à espérer que celle-ci profitera de l'apaisement actuel pour appliquer avec énergie les mesures destinées à apporter à la condition des populations Chrétiennes l'amélioration effective unanimement réclamée comme indispensable à la tranquillité de l'Europe, et, qu'une fois entrée dans cette voie, elle comprendra qu'il est de son honneur, comme de son intérêt, d'y persévérer loyalement et efficacement.

Les Puissances se proposent de veiller avec soin, par l'intermédiaire de leurs Représentants à Constantinople et de leurs Agents locaux, à la façon dont les promesses du Gouvernement Ottoman seront exécutées.

Si leur espoir se trouvait encore une fois déçu et si la condition des sujets Chrétiens du Sultan n'était pas améliorée de manière à prévenir le retour des complications qui troublent périodiquement le repos de l'Orient, elles croient devoir déclarer qu'un tel état de choses serait incompatible avec leurs intérêts et ceux de l'Europe en général. En pareil cas, elles se réservent d'aviser en commun aux moyens qu'elles jugeront les plus propres à assurer le bien-être des populations Chrétiennes et les intérêts de la paix générale.

No. 260.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 6. Political.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, March* 3, 1877.

A COPY of the inclosed Petition to the Acting Governor-General of Crete was left at my office this morning, and also, I have reason to believe, at the offices of my colleagues.

It relates to an incident which occurred two days previously in the local prison, in a room in which some thirty prisoners, both Mussulmans and Christians, were confined. A quarrel having arisen between them, the latter were overpowered, and the police rushing in, joined the Moslems in beating them, finally handcuffing them with irons and consigning them to dungeons under ground.

As soon as this was known, it created great excitement among the native Christians, who, as related in the inclosed document of which a translation is annexed, assembled this morning in the church, and drew up a Petition to the Acting-Governor, calling upon him to have the guilty parties punished.

The men had been released from their cruel confinement the previous day, and if I bring the matter to your Lordship's notice, it is for the purpose of showing the present temper of the Cretan Christians, who thus hotly resent an affront put upon them, and not because the incident is likely to have any serious consequences.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure in No. 260.

Petition made by leading Christians in Canea to the Acting Governor-General about an Assault made on Christian Prisoners.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

IT is with great pain that we the Undersigned have been informed that in the local prison there was yesterday wrought by the police, of whom the Mulazim Mahmoud was the ringleader, a bad action not consonant with the spirit of this century.

Without any reason the Ottoman prisoners, many of whom ought long since to have been sent to the central prisons of the State, assaulted the Christian prisoners, the police authorities aiding them, and the Christians were mercilessly beaten, and after being manacled with irons, were placed in the dungeons and again beaten.

This action having been done against our countrymen who are in prison, leads us to suppose that our contrymen are not in security, even in prison. Wherefore, having related to your Excellency this barbarous and cruel deed, we beg you to take the prescribed steps for the punishment of the guilty.

The delivery to your Excellency of the present paper has been entrusted to the very Reverend Bishop of Kydonia and Apokorona, and to the deputies Rousso, Kondouraki, Gregorio Frankodemetraki, Nicolaos Athanasiadi, Joannis Gemanaki, and Theophani Nikeforaki.

Done in the church in Canea the 15th February / 3rd March 1877.

No. 261.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 7. Political.)

Canea, Crete, March 6, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the popular meetings for the purpose of taking the oath of brotherhood continue to be held, as many as 800 and 1,000 men having been assembled in a single body. Many come to these meetings with arms in their hands, and fire off guns out of bravado. The movement which began at this end of the island in the month of January has been gathering in force and extending eastward, having passed with noisy demonstrations through the district of Rethymo, and it is now agitating the district of Candia, beyond which it is not likely to extend, as the Christians of the eastern half of Crete are more lethargic than their brethren in the west.

These meetings have everywhere had the effect of intimidating the Mussulman peasantry, who seek to bring their moveable property into the fortresses, and the measure adopted with such good results by Reouf Pasha in January to check this movement has since been imitated in other parts of the island. His Excellency marched a battalion of regular troops to a central position in Apokorona, and the Mutessarifs of Rethymo and Candia have similarly posted regular troops in the interior of their districts. Their presence has stayed the flight of the peasantry and given them a feeling of security. It is, however, but fair to state that the Christians have refrained from any acts of pillage upon their Moslem countrymen, nor have I heard of personal injury offered to any one.

The opposition of the Christians to the election of Deputies for the new Ottoman Parliament continues. The various Administrative Councils in the island have all been called on by the authorities to give their votes for the two Deputies who are to represent the Cretans in the new Legislative Body, but every effort has hitherto failed to induce the Christian members to take a step which would be tantamount to recording their acquiescence in the new Constitution as applied to the island, and they persist in declaring that they do not mean to relinquish the privileges, albeit imperfectly carried out, granted them by the Règlement of 1868.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 262.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 18.)

Scutari, March 7, 1877.

My Lord,

MY French colleague, M. Ceccaldi, who is accredited to the Prince of Montenegro, has shown me a copy of the instructions given by his Highness to the Delegates whom he has sent to Constantinople for the purpose of negotiating, if possible, a durable peace.

As in these instructions I have observed that a claim is to be put forward for the advance of the Montenegrin frontier as far as the River Moratcha, I trust your Lordship will pardon me for venturing to offer the following explanations about the recommendation contained in my despatch No. 76 of the 23rd October last, that a greater cession than this should be made to Montenegro.

Although my suggestion has now assumed the appearance, as foreseen by Sir Henry Elliot in his despatch to your Lordship of the 18th November, 1876, of exceeding considerably the amount of territory demanded by Montenegro, I am still of opinion that if the Montenegrin frontier is to be advanced at all in the direction of Podgoritza it ought to overstep that town.

To any one acquainted with the locality the demand for the River Moratcha as a boundary cannot convey any other impression than this territorial arrangement is not intended to be final, and that it is made in the hope that those who will have to decide whether it can be accorded will be guided by no other knowledge of the country than that to be derived from maps.

The proposed boundary would put Montenegro in possession of Spuz and the Veli B'rdo and Malo B'rdo, and would thus at once render Podgoritza untenable for a single week should war break out again.

The two B'rdos are hills of considerable height exceedingly rocky, and well covered with brushwood, and are eminently suited for the kind of fighting in which the Montenegrins excel.

In 1870 the Turkish Government bought from Montenegro for 6,000*l.* its pretended right of pasturage over the B'rdos, and completely fortified them, thus rendering the northern side of Podogoritza invulnerable by making impregnable the hills which overhang it, and by commanding the River Moratcha, which washes the very walls of its houses; but the Malo B'rdo once in the hands of Montenegro the smallest pieces of mountain artillery placed on it would sweep every street in Podgoritza, as the hill is only about a mile distant from the town, and no heights would remain in the possession of the Turks from whence they could meet the Montenegrin attack.

I am convinced that but few months would pass after the grant of the proposed boundary before the Montenegrins would commence to subject the inhabitants of Podgoritza, from the opposite bank of the Moratcha, to petty and hourly annoyances, which would rapidly develop into serious quarrels, and which would afford an opportunity of demonstrating to the Turks that, although peace had been concluded without a demand for the cession of the town, its abandonment had really been secured when the right bank of the Moratcha became Montenegrin territory.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 263.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 19.)

Scutari, March 7, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, on the direction in which Mirdite affairs are tending.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 263.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Jocelyn.

Sir, *Scutari, March* 7, 1877.

THE release of Marco Gion Nozza reported by me does not appear, as was pretended by the authorities here, to have been unconditional or complete, for I understand he is now at Miet, where he is detained by the commander of the Turkish troops, nominally as his guest, but in fact until the Mirdites raise the blockade of the roads, and send back the Mahommedan hostages.

When the Mirdites carry out the above wishes of the authorities, it must not be considered that every cause of misunderstanding will have been removed. The closing against them of all the market-towns in this and the neighbouring provinces, will be accepted as the determination of the Government not to overlook their recent proceedings, and will probably lead to the capture of other Turks of position, to be held as prisoners until the obnoxious measure is abandoned.

However, the present movement among the North Albanian tribes ought hardly to be attributed to any well-marked repressive action on the part of the Turkish authorities.

The Mirdites, when the war first broke out with Montenegro, refused to send a contingent of irregular troops unless their chieftain, Prenk Bib Doda, was allowed to return from his exile at Constantinople. The demand was conceded in a spirit of such evident distrust, that no sooner had the young Bib Doda gained his native mountains, than his clansmen held him exonerated from all obligations towards the Porte.

Since then the repeated and disastrous defeats of the Turks on the Montenegrin frontiers, and the efforts of foreign emissaries, backed by foreign gold, have convinced the mountaineers that the power of the Turkish Government is not irresistible, and from this conviction has arisen the more noble feeling of a desire to develop themselves out of a loose gathering of mountain clans into an independent people, and a properly constituted authority.

The example of Montenegro, which but five-and-twenty years ago was no better than themselves, has come home to them; and the elevation of Prenk Bib Doda to the supreme chieftainship of Mirdicia could not have been accomplished in a country bristling with mountain chiefs of equal rank, did not a desire more powerful than their individual interests exist for union that may consolidate them into a nation.

The undecided action of the authorities, which has, however, leant more on the side of repression than conciliation, has been skilfully magnified by the counsellors of Bib Doda into persecution, and has given that notoriety to his proceedings which was required to secure him the admiration of the mountaineers as being the champion of the right of self-government of which the Ottomans have never been able to deprive them.

The closest intercourse is kept up with the Prince of Montenegro, and assistance in the shape of arms, ammunition, money and men, is confidently expected. The mountaineers are under the belief that, even if peace is concluded between the Principality and the Porte, they will still have the support of the former, and that the tactics that were so successful in the Herzegovina, when the insurrection first broke out in that quarter, can easily be repeated by the Montenegrins on this side, especially as free communications can always be maintained through the mountainous districts of the Clementi and Hotti, which adjoin the Koutchi.

I have, from the first appearance of the sentiment of union among the Roman Catholic tribes here described, endeavoured to induce the Turkish authorities to meet it in a way so that it might not assume a character hostile to the Imperial Government. I have urged that the clergy should be treated with consideration, and that its wishes should be complied with whenever possible, so as to impress its communities with its power to assist them. At present the priests are incapable of obtaining the slightest hearing from the local authorities, and have to apply from Consulate to Consulate for support when they want to obtain Government assistance. In this manner their influence among their flocks is limited to spiritual matters, and they are not sure that a change might not be advantageous, and therefore preach submission to existing authorities in a lukewarm manner.

I have repeatedly pointed out that the only way of reassuring the mountaineers that the Government has no ulterior views aiming at the destruction of their local organization and laws, is by acknowledging some one of their chiefs as a supreme authority, holding his power from the Porte, and exercising his functions in the name of the Sultan.

The Pashas, however, can only understand this as being the advice of a dupe or of an enemy of their Government, and they continue to pursue a policy which has proved a

failure during the last four hundred years, and which is at last rapidly driving North Albania into the ranks of the rebel provinces of the Turkish Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 264.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 20.)
My Lord, *Scutari, March* 10, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to report that the military authorities here are showing considerable activity in the transmission of ammunition, stores, and provisions in the shape of flour and rice, to Podgoritza, and that the latter place is being strengthened by earthworks and other defences.

The accounts which reach me of the troops at all the frontier posts depict them as being in a deplorable condition.

The men are under-fed, ill-clothed, and not properly sheltered from the inclemencies of the weather, and the prospect of the recommencement of hostilities is inspiring them with fears which will render them quite unfit to meet an enemy.

Owing to the paucity of money in the Government and military treasuries, fresh provisions, such as meat and vegetables, are obtained with difficulty, and even the hospitals are frequently without these requisites.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 265.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 19, 1877, 4:30 P.M.

THE Turkish Parliament was opened to-day by the Sultan in person in the great hall of the Palace of Dolmabagtche.

The Imperial speech was read by the Sultan's private secretary, and I shall forward a translation of it to your Lordship by post to-morrow.

No. 266.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 19, 1877, 5·16 P.M.

I HAVE just communicated to Safvet Pasha confidentially information respecting Protocol.

Musurus Pasha had already reported a conversation he had had with your Lordship on the subject which has alarmed the Porte.

It fears that the Consular supervision is about to be imposed by the Powers to which it objects even more strongly than to the Commission proposed by the Conference (if it be required to recognize its character).

The Ambassador also said that it was intended if the Powers were not satisfied with the execution of the reforms within a certain term to convene (in Europe) (*sic*) a fresh Conference, from which Turkey would be excluded, in order to devise new means of action.

Porte is anxious to know principal conditions of Protocol.

No. 267.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 20.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, March* 19, 1877, 9·15 P.M.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs considers the draft Protocol inclosed in your Lordship's despatch No. 77 of 16th instant as acceptable.

He regrets, however, that it contains no reference to the refugees, and he may possibly propose that a clause with respect to them should be inserted.

No. 268.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tiflis, March* 19, 1877, 10·40 P.M.

CAUCASUS impassible through snow for artillery for some time. There are tw divisions other side of Caucasus. Late (news ?) seem to show they are the 38th and 20th, if so there are but ninety battalions at Tiflis and on frontier.

Despatch No. 40 sent.

No. 269.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.[*]

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 20, 1877, 3:45 P.M.

THE French Ambassador has been instructed to give an absolute contradiction to the report that the Russian Government has applied for a loan to the Bank of France, or to any financiers connected with that establishment.

No. 270.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March* 20, 1877.

THE following is from Monson, dated yesterday :—

"I have received your telegram of Sunday, conveying Lord Derby's instructions, and I will co-operate with my Austrian colleague in counselling moderation. He has not as yet received any orders from his Government."

No. 271.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 79.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, March* 20, 1877.

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve the language which you held in your conversation with Prince Gortchakow respecting the reply of Her Majesty's Government to his Circular despatch of the 19th of January, and the present position of the Eastern question, as reported in your despatch No. 76 of the 20th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 272.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 84.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, March* 20, 1877.

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF spoke to me to-day on the subject of the negotiations between Turkey and Montenegro, and said that he had received a telegram from Prince Gortchakow, stating that the Porte wished to treat Montenegro as a vassal State.

The Prince considered that this pretension would alone be sufficient to make the conclusion of peace impossible, and he thought that the action of England at Constantinople might have great weight in inducing the Porte to withdraw from the position it had taken up.

[*] A similar despatch was addressed to Lord A. Loftus.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 273.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.[*]

(No. 86.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, March* 20, 1877.

IN the course of a conversation which I had yesterday with the French Ambassador I mentioned to his Excellency a report that had reached Her Majesty's Government that the Bank of France had agreed to advance to the Russian Government, on the security of Russian Government paper, the sum of 20,000,000*l.* sterling.

M. d'Harcourt informed me, in reply, that he was unaware that any such transaction had taken place between the Russian Government and the Bank of France.

Subsequently, his Excellency informed me that he was authorized to give an absolute contradiction to this report. He stated that no such proposal had been made either to the Bank of France or to any financier connected with that establishment.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 274.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Kirby Green.

(No 7.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 20, 1877.

I APPROVE the representations which you made to obtain the release of Marco Gion Nozza, and the course you have taken to avert a conflict between the Turkish troops and the Mirdites, as reported in your despatch No. 15 of the 3rd instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 275.

Musurus Pasha to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 20.)

My Lord, *Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le* 19 *Mars*, 1877.

CONFORMEMENT au désir exprimé par votre Excellence, je m'empresse de lui transmettre ci-joint copie de la dépêche télégraphique de son Excellence Safvet Pacha dont j'ai donné aujourd'hui lecture à votre Excellence.

Votre très dévoué,
(Signé) MUSURUS.

Inclosure in No. 275.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.

(Communication Confidentielle.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 18 *Mars*, 1877.

REÇU télégramme No. spécial 123.

Nous approuvons le langage que vous avez tenu à Lord Derby.

Nous ne pouvons certes pas empêcher les Puissances de signer un Protocole. Mais nous sommes fermement convaincus que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique ne donnera pas son consentement à un Acte qui pourrait porter atteinte au principe même de l'intégrité et de l'indépendance de l'Empire pour la défense duquel il n'y a pas de sacrifice que nous ne soyons prêts à supporter, et qui, d'ailleurs, se trouve placé sous la garantie collective des Puissances signataires du Traité de Paris. Or, le projet de Protocole, tel

[*] A similar despatch was addressed to Lord Lyons.

qu'il se trouve résumé dans votre susdit télégramme, présente de graves inconvénients sous plus d'un rapport.

Et d'abord, nous ne voyons pas l'opportunité qu'il y aurait d'y consigner la clause d'après laquelle on engagerait la Sublime Porte à désarmer pendant que l'on passerait sous silence la partie relative au désarmement de la Russie. Plus la Sublime Porte verrait avec satisfaction l'adoption de toute proposition de nature à assurer le désarmement simultané, plus il lui serait pénible de passer aux yeux de l'Europe comme la perturbatrice de la tranquillité générale. Une pareille clause devrait être repoussée, car nous ne saurions accepter d'aucune façon que la provocation soit venue de notre côté, lorsque tout le monde est convaincu du contraire.

Ensuite, quand vous dites que les Puissances ratifieront et confirmeront les réformes proposées par elles et acceptées par la Sublime Porte, sans faire mention de la Commission Internationale ni de la nomination des Gouverneurs avec l'agrément des Puissances, je craindrais fort qu'il n'y eût là quelque erreur. Ces deux clauses ne sont pas les seules de toutes celles qui nous ont été proposées, et que nous avons dû refuser.

Les points que nous avons acceptés comme conformes à nos institutions sont clairement spécifiés dans le procès-verbal de la séance du 20 Janvier et consignés dans mon télégramme circulaire en date du même jour. Afin d'éviter tout malentendu, je dois déclarer que nous n'avons rien changé à cette décision. Il n'y aurait donc pas lieu de procéder par exclusion des deux clauses susmentionnés, mais bien de se rapporter à nos propres déclarations pour établir les points sur lesquels on était tombé d'accord.

Indépendamment de ce qui précède, la clause par laquelle les Puissances déclareraient confier à leurs agents le soin de surveiller l'application des réformes, et par laquelle elles conviendraient d'aviser aux démarches à faire si elles n'étaient pas exécutées, cette clause, dis-je, est non-seulement contraire à l'esprit et à la lettre du Traité de Paris, mais elle est grosse d'inconvénients et de dangers de toute sorte.

Lorsque, dans la Conférence, on nous avait parlé de la nécessité d'instituer la Commission Mixte, nous avons dit que, si cette Commission devait avoir pour objet de tenir les Grandes Puissances au courant de tout ce qui se passe chez nous, et de faire parvenir à la connaissance de la Sublime Porte des faits qui, sans cela, auraient pu demeurer inconnus, les Ambassadeurs et les Consuls suffisaient, et que, si la Commission devait s'immiscer dans les affaires intérieures du pays, c'était là une proposition inacceptable. Depuis, notre manière de voir est demeurée la même. La Sublime Porte ne saurait en aucun cas reconnaître aux Représentants des Grandes Puissances le droit de surveiller son administration intérieure. Ce serait détruire d'un seul coup le principe même de l'indépendance du Gouvernement et son prestige aux yeux du monde, aussi bien qu'aux yeux de ses propres populations.

La situation deviendrait plus compliquée, plus difficile que jamais. D'ailleurs, le sentiment de sa propre dignité seul imposerait à la Sublime Porte le devoir de repousser toute proposition de ce genre. Consacrer ainsi contrairement au Traité de Paris et aux principes du droit public un pareil droit d'intervention extralégale, ce serait, à notre avis, faire à la Sublime Porte une situation impossible, ce serait faire de la question actuelle une question qui resterait constamment ouverte, et obliger le Gouvernement Impérial à répondre aux propositions des Puissances, dont il a le plus à cœur de conserver les sympathies, autrement qu'il ne le désirait.

Veuillez donc vous rendre auprès de Lord Derby l'interprète des considérations qui précèdent. Ce à quoi nous nous attendons de sa sagesse consommée et de sa haute équité, dont il a fait preuve à notre égard, c'est que l'acte auquel il croira devoir apposer sa signature pour nous être communiqué soit un acte qui ne nous fasse pas passer aux yeux de l'Europe pour une cause de perturbation de la paix générale.

En outre, l'Acte en question, en constatant l'accord intervenu sur les propositions que nous avons déclaré accepter, ne devrait donner lieu à aucune ingérence des autorités étrangères dans les affaires intérieures du pays, ni affaiblir la situation qui nous est garantie par le Traité de Paris. C'est à ces conditions seulement que l'Acte projeté pourrait mettre fin réellement à une situation qui nous pèse certainement plus qu'à tout autre, mais dont nous ne voudrions pas sortir par le sacrifice du principe même de l'indépendance de l'Empire.

No. 276.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 20, 11 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March* 20, 1877, 4·26 P.M.

MR. MONSON telegraphs as follows to-day :—

"Montenegrin Delegates telegraphed that they have not as yet been able to decypher Prince's telegram of 16th instant, containing His Highness's answer to the Porte's further propositions, the Turkish telegraph having,—it is believed here purposely,—utterly confused the cypher.

"The Prince asks the English and Austrian Governments to be so good as, by their Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, to communicate to the Montenegrin Delegates the substance of telegrams sent by me and my Austrian colleague on the 16th instant, containing the general terms of his reply, in order to assist in the elucidation of the original message, which is being retelegraphed."

No. 277.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, March* 21.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Constantinople, le* 8 *Mars*, 1877.

AINSI que je vous l'ai fait savoir par mon télégramme du 1er de ce mois, les rapports ont été heureusement rétablis entre le Gouvernement Impérial et la Principauté de Serbie à la suite de l'entente qui est intervenue entre la Sublime Porte et les Délégués Serbes.

Ce résultat a été obtenu dans les conditions et au moyen des actes suivants :—

Les Délégués Serbes ont remis à la Sublime Porte une note dans laquelle, en vertu de leurs pleins pouvoirs, ils déclarent au nom du Prince que la Serbie faisait hommage de fidélité envers la Cour Suzeraine et demandait à rentrer dans la situation qui existait avant les derniers malheureux événements, en assumant de nouveau l'exécution de toutes les charges contenues dans les Firmans délivrés jusqu'ici et dont elle reconnaissait l'autorité. La note, en outre, relate les conditions de la pacification, et constate l'accord existant sur ces points entre la Cour Suzeraine et la Principauté.

La seule des garanties morales qui a été omise est celle relative à l'entretien d'un Agent du Gouvernement Impérial à Belgrade, la mention de ce point ayant été écartée d'un commun accord afin de ne pas donner à l'établissement à Belgrade d'un Agent de la Cour Suzeraine, établissement qui avait été autrefois sollicité par la Principauté elle-même, le caractère d'un mesure imposée à la faveur de circonstances exceptionnelles.

A la suite de la remise de cette note, qui ouvrait la voie à une entente entre la Sublime Porte et la Serbie, dans une séance qui a été tenu avec les Délégués, je leur ai déclaré que la Sublime Porte prenait acte du contenue de la note susmentionnée, et il a été convenu que le Gouvernement Serbe accorderait l'amnistie aux Serbes compromis dans les derniers événements, et que notre armée évacuerait les points occupées dans l'intérieur de la Serbie, ce dont procès-verbal a été rédigé et signé séance tenante.

Le Prince Milan a adressé, de son côté, un télégramme directement à son Altesse le Grand Vézir par lequel il ratifie et confirme les explications et assurances fournies par ses Délégués, proteste de sa fidélité envers la Cour Suzeraine et sollicite l'émanation de l'acte devant consacrer le rétablissement des rapports existant antérieurement.

A cet effet, un Firman Impérial consacrant le rétablissement du *statu quo ante* vient d'être rédigé, et ce Firman sera incessamment envoyé à Belgrade par l'entremise d'un fonctionnaire spécial.

L'ensemble de ces documents, dont vous trouverez les copies ci-jointes en annexe, explique au surplus le mode du rétablissement des rapports réguliers entre la Sublime Porte et la Principauté de Serbie sur le pied du *statu quo ante*, c'est-à-dire de l'observation de toutes les dispositions des anciens Hatts et Firmans Impériaux et de la satisfaction donnée à la Sublime Porte, quant aux conditions formulées par elle, sans qu'aucune atteinte ait été porté au Traité de 1856.

Le mouvement provoqué en Serbie une fois réprimé par la valeur de nos troupes, la Sublime Porte était appelée à choisir entre l'établissement d'un nouvel ordre de choses et le rétablissement du *statu quo ante*, entouré de certaines garanties morales de nature à calmer des appréhensions et à satisfaire à des réclamations autorisées par la nature même des relations existant entre la Cour Suzeraine et la Principauté. Il serait inutile d'énumérer ici tout au long les considérations qui militaient en faveur de la seconde de ces deux alternatives. Elles se présentent naturellement à l'esprit. En s'attachant à éviter de nouvelles

négociations telles que celles que le changement du *statu quo ante* ne pouvait manquer de provoquer, la Sublime Porte a voulu donner une preuve de son désir d'abréger, autant qu'il dépendait d'elle, l'anxiété avec laquelle les Cabinets et l'opinion publique en Europe attendaient l'issue des négociations entamées directement avec la Serbie, et en même temps de se créer un titre de plus à la fidélité et à l'attachement du peuple et du Prince de Serbie.

Aussi, qu'il nous soit permis d'espérer que la modération dont le Gouvernement Impérial a fait preuve sera appréciée équitablement et qu'elle portera ses fruits. En ce que concerne la Principauté de Serbie plus particulièrement, il y a lieu de croire qu'éclairée sur le danger des entraînements inconsidérés, elle comprendra mieux la nécessité de respecter ses obligations envers la Cour Suzeraine et d'entretenir constamment avec elle les loyaux rapports qui sont la condition de son existence et de sa sécurité. Les Délégués du Prince nous ont déclaré que Sa Majesté le Sultan venait de rendre la Serbie heureuse et contente. La Sublime Porte ne désire maintenant qu'une chose, c'est que ce sentiment se consolide en se perpétuant.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 277.

Note addressed by the Servian Plenipotentiaries to the Porte.

Constantinople, le $\frac{1}{13}$ *Février*, 1877.

LES Soussignés, Délégués Spéciaux de Son Altesse le Prince de Serbie, ont déjà eu l'honneur de se rendre auprès de la Sublime Porte les interprètes du désir sincère du Prince de Serbie et du Gouvernement Princier de voir les relations de la Principauté avec la Cour Suzeraine rétablies un moment plustôt telles qu'elles existaient avant les derniers malheureux événements.

La Sublime Porte, de son côté, ayant fait connaître à Son Altesse le Prince les propositions dont elle avait jugé l'adoption nécessaire pour le rétablissement du *statu quo ante*, les Soussignés, se conformant à leurs instructions, s'empressent de présenter au Gouvernement Impérial les explications suivantes qui leur permettent d'établir et de déclarer que rien ne s'oppose désormais au rétablissement du *statu quo*.

La Sublime Porte désire que :—

"Conformément aux stipulations qui ont été faites lors du retrait des troupes Ottomanes de la Citadelle de Belgrade, le pavillon Ottoman flotte désormais sur la dite citadelle à côté du pavillon Serbe et aussi qu'en exécution des anciens Firmans, le nombre des forteresses et l'importance des fortifications existantes ne soient pas augmentés par la suite."

Le Gouvernement Princier n'a jamais cessé de remplir l'obligation de hisser le pavillon Ottoman sur la Citadelle de Belgrade. D'ailleurs, ces deux points se trouvant expressément et explicitement établis dans les Hatti-Chérifs de Redjeb, 1249, et du 5 Zilhidjé, 1283 (11 Avril, 1867), il s'ensuit qu'aussitôt que la Principauté sera admise à établir ses relations avec la Cour Suzeraine sur le pied du *statu quo ante*, la reconnaissance que le rétablissement du *statu quo ante* implique de tous les Firmans Impériaux délivrés à diverses dates rendra obligatoires quant aux forteresses les stipulations contenues dans les Firmans susmentionnés, et, des lors, ces stipulations entreront immédiatement en vigueur et seront scrupuleusement observées.

La Sublime Porte désire également que :—

"Le Gouvernement Princier préviendra la formation sur le territoire de la Principauté de bandes armées destinées à porter le trouble dans les provinces voisines, ainsi que l'entrée dans les provinces voisines de bandes armées ainsi formées, soit par corps et ouvertement, soit clandestinement et par petits groupes ; qu'en outre le Gouvernement Princier mette obstacle à la formation de sociétés secrètes ou non ayant pour but de troubler la paix et la tranquillité des provinces voisines."

Les Soussignés ont invoqué les antécédents les moins contestables de droit et de fait pour fournir au Gouvernement de la Sublime Porte les assurances les plus formelles quant aux tendances éminemment conservatrices et anti-révolutionnaires qui ont de tout temps caractérisé le peuple et le Gouvernement de la Principauté.

La Serbie, consciente de sa position, cherche dans le travail productif les éléments de sa prospérité ; ennemie à toute agitation qui serait nuisible à son développement moral, intellectuel, et commercial, elle s'est donnée des lois sévères pour prévenir la création de sociétés secrètes ayant des buts subversifs, pour réprimer la formation de bandes armées

destinées à fomenter des troubles dans les provinces voisines. De fait, durant la longue période qui s'est écoulée depuis la création de la Principauté sous le Sultan Mahmoud jusqu'à ces derniers temps, non-seulement la formation de bandes armées a été inconnue en Serbie ; mais il n'y a pas même existé de sociétés secrètes, tant il est vrai que la législation intérieure, conforme du reste avec les tendances du peuple Serbe, a toujours suffi pour empêcher la naissance de tels éléments de troubles. Les sociétés secrètes auxquelles la Sublime Porte a fait allusion ont eu leur origine et leur siége ailleurs qu'en Serbie. Si, dans ce dernier temps, ces lois de la Principauté étant restées impuissantes, il s'est produit une situation funeste à tous les intérêts, les assurances dont les Soussignés ont l'honneur d'être les organes auprès du Gouvernement Impérial sont précisément destinées à y mettre fin en rétablissant la paix et les rapports de bonne entente entre la Cour Suzeraine et la Principauté et à rendre à ces lois préservatrices de l'ordre public leur antique et incontestable autorité et efficacité pour le plus grand avantage de la Serbie elle-même.

La Sublime Porte désire que—

"Indépendamment de la liberté religieuse, les Arméniens, Grégoriens, et Catholiques, et les Israélites jouissent, en Serbie, des mêmes droits et des mêmes privilèges que les autres habitants."

Au désir de tolérance si généreusement manifesté par la Sublime Porte, les Soussignés ont répondu que la législation intérieure de la Serbie ne connaît aucune exception fondée sur des faits de religion ; qu'il n'a jamais existé d'Arméniens, Grégoriens, ou Catholiques en Serbie ; que tous les citoyens Serbes jouissent des mêmes droits civils et politiques ; que les Israélites, sujets Serbes, n'en sont pas plus privés, sauf une seule restriction concernant leur établissement dans l'intérieur du pays, que ne le seraient à l'avenir des citoyens Serbes qui appartiendraient à un rite Chrétien autre que le rite Orthodoxe. Les Soussignés se félicitent d'avoir été ainsi mis à même de montrer que le grand principe de liberté religieuse inhérent au régime intérieur de la Principauté a été de tout temps le partage de tous les citoyens Serbes sans distinction de cultes.

Ils s'estiment heureux d'avoir ainsi établi dans ce qui précède le parfait accord existant entre la Sublime Porte et le Gouvernement Princier pour tout ce qui a trait aux conditions du rétablissement du *statu quo* qui avaient été précédemment notifiées à Belgrade.

Les Soussignés, en leur qualité déjà énoncée de Délégués de la Principauté, et ayant la mission de renouveler de la manière la plus formelle l'expression de loyale fidélité du Prince et du peuple Serbe envers l'auguste personne de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, n'hésite pas à déclarer au Gouvernement de la Sublime Porte que Son Altesse le Prince Milan est prêt à confirmer directement les explications et les assurances dont ils ont été en son nom les fidèles interprètes.

Ils espèrent, en conséquence, que son Altesse le Grand Vézir voudra bien provoquer l'émanation de l'Iradé Impérial pour le rétablissement du *statu quo ante* et aussi pour que les troupes Impériales se retirent dans les douze jours à dater d'aujourd'hui derrière la ligne de démarcation, et que cette ligne soit rétablie telle qu'elle existait avant les derniers événements.

(Signé) PH. CRISTITCH.
D. MATITCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 277.

Protocol signed by the Turkish and Servian Plenipotentiaires.

[See Inclosure in No. 108.]

Inclosure 3 in No. 277.

The Prince of Servia to the Grand Vizier.

Le 2 Mars, 1877.

(Télégraphique.)

J'AI l'honneur d'informer votre Altesse que nous confirmons et ratifions pleinement le Protocole contenant les bases convenues pour le rétablissement des relations entre la Sublime Porte et la Serbie tel qu'il a été signé par nos Délégués Spéciaux, MM. Philipp Christitch et Démètre Matitch, de même que les éclaircissements et les assurances que les Délégués ont donné à la Sublime Porte, et qui ont abouti au rétablissement du *statu quo* qui avait existé entre la Sublime Porte et la Principauté jusqu'au mois de Juin de l'année passée.

La Serbie, rentrant ainsi dans la plénitude des droits, des priviléges et des immunités dont elle a joui jusqu'alors, accepte avec un profond sentiment de fidélité les obligations qui découlent des Firmans émanés à différentes époques et par lesquels la Cour Suzeraine avait témoigné de sa sollicitude et de sa confiance envers la nation Serbe et son Prince.

Il appartient maintenant à Sa Majesté le Sultan de proclamer officiellement le rétablissement des relations de la Principauté avec la Puissance Suzeraine sur la base convenue.

Inclosure 4 in No. 277.

Firman dated $\frac{\text{February 29}}{\text{March 12}}$ 1877.

(Traduction.)

APRES les titres d'usage.

Notre sollicitude Impériale avait toujours eu pour objet tout ce qui pouvait contribuer à consolider la tranquillité et le progrès de la Principauté de Servie, qui fait partie intégrante de notre Empire, et à assurer le bonheur et la prospérité de ses habitants. Les immunités et priviléges contenus dans les Hatts Impériaux délivrés à diverses époques n'ont eu pour but que la réalisation de ce désir.

Une preuve éclatante de notre bienveillance particulière pour le peuple Serbe en considération de sa fidélité éprouvée envers notre Gouvernement Impérial avait encore été donnée notamment par la décision en vertu de laquelle la garde des forteresses Impériales sises en Serbe avait été confiée à la Principauté. Les rapports de confiance et de sincérité entre la Principauté et la Cour Suzeraine étaient ainsi consolidés et développés de jour en jour d'avantage lorsque, malgré les efforts de notre Gouvernement Impérial pour garantir l'ordre de choses existant, nous avons été péniblement affecté en voyant qu'il n'avait pas été possible de prévenir les événements malheureux qui menacèrent de troubler profondément aussi bien la situation intérieure de la Serbie que sa situation vis-à-vis de la Cour Suzeraine.

Sur l'acceptation empressée de la proposition du rétablissement de la tranquillité qui avait été faite par notre Gouvernement Impérial dans le but d'épargner à la Serbie les malheurs de la guerre, et qui avait en vue le retour de la Serbie à la situation qui existait pour elle avant les derniers malheureux événements, vos Délégués, les très-honorables MM. Cristitch et Matitch, sont arrivés à Constantinople avec des pleins pouvoirs de votre part. Dans les pourparlers qui ont eu lieu entre eux et notre Sublime Porte, ils ont su lui donner verbalement et par écrit des explications et des assurances par lesquelles ils ont garanti que le contenu des Firmans délivrés à diverses dates serait scrupuleusement observé; que les obligations qui avaient été à la charge de la Serbie en compensation des priviléges et immunités de la Principauté seraient exécutées, et qu'on ne permettrait désormais rien qui fût de nature à troubler matériellement et moralement les bons rapports de la Serbie avec notre Gouvernement.

Ces explications et ces assurances ayant renouvelé et confirmé notre confiance Impériale dans la fidélité et la droiture de la Principauté et du peuple Serbe, nous avons ainsi approuvé et ratifié le rétablissement du *statu quo ante*; et, de même que notre pardon Impérial a été accordé à ceux des habitants des provinces voisines qui pendant les événements dont il a été question se sont enfuis et réfugiés dans la Principauté, de même le retour dans leurs foyers des habitants de la Principauté qui s'étaient réfugiés chez nous a été également assuré. Nous sommes convaincu que vous et le peuple Serbe vous apprécierez ce qui vient d'être arrêté comme une preuve manifeste de notre confiance et bienveillance Impériale à votre égard, et que vous vous attacherez à persister dans l'accomplissement des devoirs de la Principauté vis-à-vis de notre Gouvernement Impérial; et en conséquence nous vous avons délivré et envoyé notre présent Firman revêtu de notre sanction Impériale pour proclamer que sur cette base le *statu quo ante* a été rétabli, et que les ordres nécessaires ont été donnés à qui de droit afin de faire évacuer les points au delà de la ligne de démarcation qui se trouvent en la possession de notre armée.

Donné le 18 Safer, 1294 ($\frac{\text{29 Février}}{\text{12 Mars}}$, 1877).

Inclosure 5 in No. 277.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 15 Mars*, 1877.

LES Délégués Monténégrins nous ont demandé:—

1. Du côté de l'Albanie, la cession de la rive droite de la Moratcha jusqu'au Lac de Scutari, de plusieurs villages, places fortes, et enfin le territoire et le port de Spiza; et, du côté de l'Herzégovine, Bagnani, Nichsich, la partie sud de Gatzko, Piva, Yeserasch, Ranzi, et la partie du district supérieur de Kolachine jusqu'au Moikovatz.

2. La liberté absolue de navigation sur le Lac de Scutari et la Antyana; et,

3. L'établissement d'un mode de vivre conformément à la lettre du Prince Nicolas, adressée à la Sublime Porte au mois de Juillet, 1875.

Le Conseil des Ministres a délibéré sur cette question, et il a considéré les prétentions élevées par les Monténégrins comme exorbitantes, et ne pouvant guère se concilier avec ce que la Sublime Porte peut leur accorder sans compromettre la sécurité de ses provinces Slaves de la Turquie d'Europe. En effet, toute concession du côté de l'Albanie ne saurait manquer de produire dans l'avenir des dangers au point de vue stratégique, militaire, et administratif. Pour ce qui est du côté de l'Herzégovine, il y aurait moyen, lors de la rectification des frontières, que nous avons acceptée en principe, considérant le Monténégro comme partie intégrante de l'Empire, et son Prince comme vassal du Sultan, de rendre possible un arrangement à l'exception du fort de Nichsich, et de faire ce qui est juste et raisonnable. Quant au second et au troisième points, il serait facile d'en venir à un arrangement avec le Prince Nicolas.

Ce qui précède est en substance la décision du Conseil des Ministres; décision qui donne amplement satisfaction aux besoins légitimes du Monténégro. J'en ferai part aux Délégués du Prince Nicolas, et je vous communiquerai leur réponse.

Inclosure 6 in No. 277.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 15 Mars*, 1877.

SUITE à mon télégramme d'aujourd'hui.

Voici le langage que j'ai tenu dans la réunion d'aujourd'hui aux Délégués Monténégrins:—

"J'ai soumis vos propositions au Conseil des Ministres. Je suis chargé de vous dire que la Sublime Porte ne pourrait pas admettre vos demandes au sujet de la rectification des frontières du côté de l'Albanie, la position géographique et stratégique du pays et d'autres considérations non moins importantes ne permettant pas au Gouvernement Impérial d'y faire exécuter des rectifications."

J'ai ajouté que, comme le Monténégro fait partie de l'Empire, on pourrait, sans porter atteinte au Traité de Paris, procéder à la rectification des frontières du côté de l'Herzégovine, à l'exception toutefois bien entendu de Nichsich.

Les Délégués, après m'avoir déclaré qu'ils ne sont pas autorisés à entrer dans la discussion de la question de la dépendance de leur pays, ont pris note des points désignés pour la rectification, et ils les ont examinés sur la carte.

Ils m'ont exprimé ensuite le désir de savoir quelle serait la manière de voir du Gouvernement Impérial à l'égard des demandes formulées par le Prince dans sa lettre du 3 Juillet, 1875.

J'ai répondu que nous les avons déjà acceptées en principe, et que nous sommes prêts à entrer dans la discussion des détails pour le règlement de ces points. Les Délégués m'ont promis de télégraphier au Prince le résumé de notre entretien et de me faire connaître la réponse de Son Altesse.

J'ai trouvé aujourd'hui les Délégués Monténégrins conciliants. Si la Russie est réellement décidée à ne pas nous déclarer la guerre et si elle est sincèrement animée du désir de voir ces contrées pacifiées un moment plus tôt, je suis convaincu que le Prince Nicolas se contenterait de ce que la Sublime Porte lui offre aujourd'hui.

Tout dépend de la volonté de l'Empereur Alexandre.

No. 278.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, March* 21.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 19 Mars*, 1877.

LA solennité de l'ouverture du Parlement Ottoman a eu lieu aujourd'hui au Palais Impérial de Dolma Bagtché, où le Sénat et la Chambre des Députés avaient été convoqués.

Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan a ouvert lui-même la première session du Parlement, en présence des Ministres, des Grands Dignitaires, des ordres religieux, civils, et militaires, des chefs des communautés non-Musulmanes, du Corps Diplomatique, et des principaux fonctionnaires de l'Etat.

Je vous enverrai par le premier courrier le discours prononcé à cette occasion par Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

No. 279.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. W. H. Smith.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 21, 1877.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to state to you, for the information of the Lords of the Treasury, that he considers it of great importance, in the present state of affairs in the Turkish provinces, that an officer of the rank of full Consul should be stationed at Adrianople, and should be authorized to visit any places at which disturbances may have occurred, or be apprehended, or where the Christians may be subjected to ill-treatment.

With this view, his Lordship proposes to appoint Mr. J. E. Blunt, Her Majesty's Consul at Salonica, to act temporarily as Consul at Adrianople, and I am to request you to move their Lordships to sanction the expenses which the transfer of Mr. Blunt will involve.

These expenses will include the hire of a house at Adrianople for Mr. Blunt and his family, and the cost of their journey from Salonica to Adrianople.

Some allowance will have to be made for extra dragomans and horse hire, and the usual allowance of 1*l.* a-day, with travelling expenses, will be granted to Mr. Blunt during such time as he is actually engaged away from Adrianople in visiting the disturbed districts.

The question of a gratuity to Mr. Blunt, to cover the extra expense to which he will be put by his removal from Salonica, may stand over until the temporary arrangement is at an end; but meanwhile Lord Derby would be glad to have their Lordships' concurrence as soon as possible in the proposed appointment.

It is impossible, in the absence of precise information, to state the exact sum which will be required, but Mr. Blunt will be instructed to report, immediately on his arrival at Adrianople, the sum for which he can hire a suitable house, and the amount of the other expenses which he will have to incur.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 280.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March* 20, 1877, 4·27 P.M.

I COULD not see Count Andrassy this morning; but I learnt from Baron Calice that the Memorandum of alterations in Protocol adopted on 17th instant had been received from Count Beust, and at his request I communicated to him confidentially the inclosure in your Lordship's despatch of that date to be compared with it.

He appeared very anxious to learn whether the Russian Government had accepted the Protocol, and your Lordship's conditions attached to its signature by your Lordship; but I could only express an opinion that it was reasonable to suppose that Count Schouvaloff and General Ignatiew expected that they will do so.

I may state, however, in strict confidence, that I suspect from observations made to me by the Emperor and by Count Andrassy that they entertain doubts as to Russia being disposed to engage in writing to disarm, and as to expediency of insisting on her giving such an engagement.

No. 281.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, March* 20, 1877, 8 P.M.

THE Sultan's Firman was presented to-day to Prince Milan in presence of all the Ministers, and has given satisfaction.

Pertew Effendi returns to Constantinople.

No. 282.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 21, 11·45 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 21, 1877, 8 A.M.

I COMMUNICATED instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram of 19th instant to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who stated that the Porte had already given strict orders to military commanders on Montenegrin frontier to remain on the defensive.

There appears to be no intention at present at least of resuming hostilities.

No. 283.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 21.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential) *Vienna, March* 21, 1877, 8·30 A.M.

I HAVE learnt from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, since forwarding my previous telegram of this day, that he approves of the alterations adopted on 17th instant in draft No. 4 of the Protocol; but I think that he will propose that some reference should be made in paragraph 6 to the reforms accepted by the Porte in its note of February of last year, before taking note of the declaration of its resolution to apply reforms enumerated in the paragraph.

He said that the engagements of the Porte respecting the refugees might be recorded in this way without specially quoting them.

No. 284.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 21, 1877, 3·30 P.M.

YOU are authorized to communicate to Montenegrin Delegates telegram from Mr. Monson dated 16th instant, giving substance of Prince's instructions to Delegates, which was repeated to you on the 17th instant.

No. 285.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 21, 1877, 3·45 P.M.

SEND following to Mr. Monson:—

"Mr. Jocelyn has been authorized to communicate to Montenegrin Delegates your telegram of the 16th instant, addressed to Sir A. Buchanan."

No. 286.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 21, 1877, 4 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 16th instant, the Turkish Ambassador must have misunderstood me if he reported that I had stated that Russia would not be satisfied even if the conditions in question were complied with. I never made any such statement.

No. 287.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 21, 1877.

LIST of sentences pronounced by Adrianople Tribunals will be sent by post Friday.

No. 288.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March* 21, 1877, 5 P.M.

MONSON telegraphs Montenegrin Delegates telegraphed last night that in view of the expiration of the armistice the Porte has ordered the Turkish Commanders to remain on the defensive. Prince Nicholas has replied this morning instructing Delegates to inform Safvet Pasha that his troops have also strict orders to remain on the defensive.

No. 289.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 21, 1877.

IN reply to your telegram of the 19th I have received following from Vice-Consul at Adrianople:—

"Heard of the alleged outrages ten hours distant from here last week, and I am making every inquiry. Spoken twice to Governor-General on the subject. He ignored the affair both times. Italian Consul-General says that disturbances have taken place of little importance. Will write."

No. 290.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Monson.

(No. 8.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 21, 1877.

UPON the receipt of your telegram of yesterday, in which you requested that, as the Montenegrin Delegates at Constantinople had been unable to decypher the Prince's telegram containing his answer to the last Turkish proposals, Mr. Jocelyn might be instructed to communicate to them the substance of the version of His Highness' answer contained in your telegram of the 16th instant, I at once sent to Mr. Jocelyn, by telegraph, instructions in accordance with your suggestion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 291.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.[*]

(No. 167 A.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 21, 1877.

I INCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, a copy of the Draft Protocol marked No. 4, with the latest alterations which have been proposed by the Russian Ambassador, but on which Her Majesty's Government have not expressed any opinion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 292.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 168.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 21, 1877.

ON the 17th instant I repeated to you a telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna, reporting that he had received the following telegraphic information from Mr. Monson, dated the 16th instant.

The Montenegrin delegates telegraphed on the 15th instant the further answer of the Turkish Government.

As regarded the refugees, it was said that they must confide in the generosity of the Porte.

As to the rectification of frontier, the Porte offered a small portion of Zubci and almost all Baniani; part of Piva, along the river of that name, as far as Bitsche; thence to the nearest point of the Tara, and along that river to Dovolj; thence to Jablano; thence along the present frontier to Kolaschin. But the Porte demanded the ultimate cession of Western Kolaschin.

The freedom of navigation of the Boiana was granted, and the Porte was willing to treat on the *modus vivendi* of 1875.

The Prince, in reply, telegraphed to the Delegates on the 16th instant that if the Porte would not engage itself to him as to the refugees, it must at least do so with Austria, England, and Russia. He must decline respecting Zubci. He adhered, roughly speaking, to his demands for Baniani, Niehsich, Duga, Piva, and Drobniak; refused to cede any Montenegrin territory whatever, or to abandon the Kuchi; gave up claim for right bank of Moratcha and to Spitza; accepted the free navigation of the Boiana under the Montenegrin flag, with stipulations for the maintenance of the channel; and agreed to treat on the proposals of 1875.

He further ordered his delegates to inform him whether the Porte consented to these conditions, as, if it did not, he would send the terms of a note to be presented, breaking off the negotiations, and instructing the Delegates to leave Constantinople with all due courtesy. In this case he would appeal to the Great Powers, and remain on the defensive in his present position, on the principle of the *uti possidetis*.

In consequence of a telegram received to-day from Mr. Monson, stating that the Montenegrin Delegates had been unable to decypher the instructions sent to them by the Prince, and that His Highness was anxious that the substance of them should be communicated to the Delegates by the British and Austrian Chargés d'Affaires at Constantinople, I authorized you by telegraph to make known to them the substance of Mr. Monson's telegram.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 293.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 170.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 21, 1877.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 16th instant, informing me that Musurus Pasha, in reporting to his Government his conversation with me

[*] A similar despatch was sent to Lord A. Loftus.

respecting the three conditions proposed by General Ignatiew to the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, said that I had stated that Russia would not be satisfied even if they were complied with.

You further reported in your telegram that the Porte considered this statement proved the uselessness of making sacrifices in order to conclude peace with Montenegro.

With reference to this telegram from you, I informed you by telegraph that the Turkish Ambassador must have misunderstood me if he reported that I had stated that Russia would not be satisfied even if the conditions in question were complied with, as I never made any such statement.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 294.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 175.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 21, 1877.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram, *en clair*, of the 17th instant, reporting the steps taken by you in anticipation of the instructions sent to you by telegraph on the 16th instant, for procuring justice and redress in the case of the murder of the cavass of Her Majesty's Consulate at Aleppo; and I have to express to you my approval of your action in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 295.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 88.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, March* 21, 1877.

THE Russian Ambassador called to-day, in company with General Ignatiew, to discuss the question of the alterations proposed by his Government in the Protocol on which we had provisionally agreed, and the conditions on which this Protocol should be signed.

I thought it right to communicate to them, in the first instance, what I understood to be the decision of the Cabinet, namely, that it would be inexpedient to enter into discussion of the verbal amendments that had been suggested in the Protocol, until an understanding had been arrived at on the question of demobilization.

I repeated what I had before stated, that Her Majesty's Government attached no special importance to the form in which the required assurance might be given; but that, inasmuch as the demobilization of the Russian forces was the inducement held out to us to sign the Protocol, and the assurance of it was our justification for so doing, we must be able to lay before Parliament evidence that our object in that respect had been secured.

Both Count Schouvaloff and General Ignatiew opposed this view. The objections which they took may be summed up briefly as follows. They contended in the first place that the bargain as offered by us was not a fair one. Turkey, not being required to sign the Protocol, was in no way pledged to disarm; the recommendation to do so, addressed to her by the Powers, being merely in the nature of advice. It was unreasonable, they argued, that Russia should bind herself to disarm as a condition of our signing a document which left Turkey free on that point. They objected, secondly, that the state of war still continues between Turkey and Montenegro; that if the Montenegrin State were to be attacked and invaded, Russia would be bound in honour to interfere for its protection, the fulfilment of which duty would be rendered impossible to her by a promise of demobilization. Thirdly, they argued that as a question of dignity it was unsuitable that Russia should be called upon to disarm before any similar appeal was addressed to Turkey.

It was the Porte which ought to take the initiative, inasmuch as it was not before Russia alone, but before all Europe, that she was called upon to lay down her arms. They observed, further, that the condition of the two armies was essentially different—the Russian army being composed of regular troops, subject to strict military discipline; whereas the Turkish forces were to a large extent composed of irregulars, whose remaining under arms was a perpetual source of danger to the surrounding population.

In continuation of this argument, they pointed out that the demobilization of the Russian forces can be accomplished in eight days; that the Turkish troops, on the other hand, could not be sent back to their homes under a period of many weeks, or perhaps months; and it was only reasonable, therefore, that the latter should be the first to begin the process. In connection with this subject, General Ignatiew observed that so large a part of the male population of Asiatic Turkey had been withdrawn from the cultivation of the soil for the purpose of being placed under arms, that unless they were speedily sent home, famine would be the inevitable result.

I asked whether they could give me any statement as to the conditions under which the Russian Government would undertake to demobilize, supposing always that they were ready to give such assurances on any conditions and in any form.

Count Schouvaloff was not authorized to speak officially on the subject, but he expressed it as his opinion, in which General Ignatiew also concurred, that the Emperor would be willing to disarm on three conditions:—

1. That the Porte should take the initiative.
2. That peace should be concluded with Montenegro as it had been with Servia.
3. That the Turkish reforms should be seriously taken in hand.

And he added a further proviso that it must be understood that demobilisation would be stopped at once in the event of fresh massacres being perpetrated on the Christian populations.

I remarked that the language held by the Russian Ambassador seemed to me of a less reassuring tendency than that which he had used on previous occasions; but that for the present I should content myself with referring their observations to the consideration of my colleagues.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 296.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 15. Political.)
My Lord, *Beyrout, March* 3, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith, a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, reporting on the election of members to represent Syria in the Turkish National Assembly or Parliament.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 296.

Consul-General Eldridge to Mr. Jocelyn.

Sir, *Beyrout, March* 3, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your information, that on the 20th ultimo his Excellency the Governor-General examined at Beyrout, the votes given in favour of the candidates to represent the Vilayet of Syria in the National Assembly at Constantinople, and the following persons were declared duly elected:—

Emin Effendi Djoundi, Mussulman, Notable of Damascus and President of the Medjlis Teniz of the Vilayet.

Derviche Effendi Shambour, Mussulman, Notable of Tripoli, and member of the Administrative Council of that place.

Nicholas Effendi Macciache, Maronite, Notable of Beyrout, and ex-member of the Administrative Council of the Vilayet.

Nicholas Bey Nauphal, Orthodox, Notable of Tripoli.

The two former, Emin Effendi and Derviche Effendi, having declined to accept the membership to which they were elected, they have been replaced by Hussein Effendi Beyhoum, Mussulman, Notable of Beyrout, and Atassi Effendi, Notable of Homs, whose names were the next on the list of candidates.

I am told that the elections were conducted with perfect regularity and fairness by the members of the various provincial Medjlisses, each writing down the names of four persons whom they considered most worthy to represent the vilayet; their names were

placed in a sealed envelope by each elector and then forwarded to the Vali, who, when all the votes were collected, opened them in the presence of the Administrative Council, the principal functionaries, notables, and the religious heads of the various communities, and those who had obtained the largest number of votes were declared duly elected.

Although the whole proceeding did not create much interest or excitement, yet the manner in which it was conducted and the results obtained have produced very general satisfaction amongst all classes.

Hussein Effendi Beyhoum, whom I have known personally for many years, is about forty years of age, and a member of the most respectable and wealthy Mussulman family of Beyrout; he is well educated (though he speaks no European language), honest, and intelligent, and a devout Mussulman, without, however, holding fanatical or intolerant views with regard to other religions. I consider him, on the whole, a fair representative of the upper classes of educated Syrians.

Nicholas Bey Nnuphal, with whom I am not personally acquainted, is represented as about fifty years of age, and belonging to a highly respectable, though not wealthy, family of Orthodox Christians of Tripoli, he is said to be intelligent and energetic, with a fair amount of instruction and considerable experience in the public service, he is very eloquent, though a little quick in temper.

Nicholas Effendi Maccache, in many respects resembles Nauphal, but more moderate in his temper, and even subservient in his demeanour towards his superiors. He has had much experience in the public service, and is about sixty years of age; unfortunately his pecuniary circumstances are necessitous, and he is generally accused of accepting bribes.

Atassi Effendi is not much known at Beyrout, but I am given to understand that he is in no way inferior to his colleague, Beyhoum.

I am informed that Toussouf Effendi Khaledi, President of the Municipality of Jerusalem, has been elected member of the Assembly for Palestine, but I can give no information concerning him.

If the results of the elections in the other provinces of Turkey are at all equal to those obtained in Syria, I think the interests of the different parts of the Empire will be very fairly represented in the National Assembly or Parliament, as I do not believe it possible that a better choice of Deputies, as representing public opinion in Syria, could have been made, which is a great proof that the elections were fairly and honestly conducted.

Some time ago it was a question of electing two members to represent Mount Lebanon in the National Assembly, but many persons looked upon this measure as contrary to the Règlement and likely to interfere with the privileges which the Lebanon enjoys, consequently much opposition was shown and the matter was allowed to drop.

For my own part I cannot see in what way the election of Deputies for the National Assembly which is to frame laws for the whole of the Turkish Empire and which are equally applicable to the Lebanon, would affect the special administrative privileges which were accorded by the Porte to the Mountain and guaranteed by the Great Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 297.

Vice-Consul Jago to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 22.)

(No. 3. Political.)
Damascus, March 4, 1877.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the copy of my despatch of this day's date to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at the Porte reporting upon public affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure in No. 297.

Vice-Consul Jago to Mr. Jocelyn.

Sir, *Damascus, March* 4, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to report that his Excellency Nashid Pasha, late Vali of Syria, left Damascus for Beyrout on the 8th February, leaving the Defterdar Effendi as Acting Governor-General pending the arrival of his successor, Zia Pasha.

On the 25th February Zia Pasha made his public entry into Damascus with the usual ceremonies, and after the reading of his firman entered upon his duties on the 27th February.

The short tenure of office of Nashid Pasha, of ten months, has not been a happy one. Corruption ever great in Damascus in every branch of the Administration attained still greater proportions. Justice has been of late openly bought and sold. The posts in the patronage of the Vali and Defterdar have been disposed of to the highest bidders; and the energies of the employés of the Government and of the Tribunals have been directed to enriching themselves to the abandonment of public business.

Owing to the reiterated instructions of the Porte on the necessity of preserving public order, and to the measures taken to that end by the Commander-in-chief, perfect tranquillity prevails; and the Christians and Jews being persuaded of the firm desire of the Government to preserve peace have of late been free from those fears and sudden panics which less rigid police measures against the unruly of the Moslem population tended so frequently to generate in their minds.

The nomination to the Imperial Parliament of a Moslem and of a Christian member from Damascus has been declined by the nominees owing to dislike to expatriation, and to injury to private interests which would result from absence from home.

As an accurate knowledge of Turkish is required, and is possessed by few in Damascus, the number of persons eligible by local standing and education is restricted, and is still more so by the general dislike among such few to accept a post which they consider will not give them at the capital the same prestige and consideration to which they are accustomed at home. In fact it is much to be feared that the Representatives of Syria may be ultimately found, for these reasons, to be drawn chiefly from a class to whom the personal emolument of office will form the sole inducement to acceptance.

Zia Pasha has expressed to me his astonishment at the state of decay and stagnation which Damascus at present presents; no less his regret and wonder at the intense ignorance and superstition of its inhabitants as exemplified on the night of the 27th ultimo, when on the occasion of the eclipse of the moon the entire population assembled on the house-tops, and during two hours endeavoured by a constant fusillade and by beating of tom-toms and tin-pots to avert the supposed impending destruction of the orb by the attacks of a beast.

It will be my care to report in due time the results of his proposed attempts to bring about a better state of things, and to introduce reforms into a city the fanaticism, ignorance, corruption, and passive resistance to change of any kind which have up to the present time proved an insurmountable barrier to the like efforts of several well-intentioned Governors-General.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 298.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 22.)

(No. 35. Political.)
Cettigné, March 10, 1877.
My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 9 of the 8th ultimo, respecting the Convention between the Turks and the Montenegrins for the transport of provisions to Niehsichs for the use of the former, and to Riehа on Lake Scutari for the latter, I have to-day been requested by Prince Nicholas to invoke the intervention of Her Majesty's Government in regard to the execution by the Turkish authorities of the stipulations of that Convention. The snow has been falling since the 21st ultimo, and is six feet deep on the mountains. Consequently only 120 horseloads have yet arrived at Niehsichs; but the Prince has applied to the Austrian Government for assistance in clearing the road between Risano and Dragai, and will do his utmost to send the provisions quickly. The Turks, however, make this

unavoidable delay a pretext for refusing to send any grain to the head of Lake Scutari; although they have accumulated in the town of Scutari itself a certain quantity of grain which is Montenegrin property; and the people of the Eastern districts of the Principality are suffering terribly from famine in consequence. The Prince hopes that in the interests of humanity Her Majesty's Government will urge the Porte not to delay to forward the grain; engaging himself most solemnly to keep his part of the contract as soon as the route to Nichsichs can be cleared.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 299.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 36. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, March 10, 1877.*

I INFORMED Prince Nicholas this afternoon of the renewed instructions sent by Her Majesty's Government to Mr. Jocelyn that he should use his good offices, if opportunity offers, to bring about an understanding between Turkey and Montenegro.

His Highness charged me to state to your Lordship that the Porte proposes to cede portions of four districts in the Herzegovina, in exchange for part of the Wassoievitchi, which is his most valuable district.

His Highness declares that he foresees an agreement to be impossible, as he must insist on receiving at least as much as the Six Powers proposed; but that he has, nevertheless instructed his Delegates not to leave Constantinople for the present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 300.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 37. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, March 11, 1877.*

DURING my conversation with Prince Nicholas yesterday, His Highness remarked that the selection made by the Porte of Moukhtar and Constant Pashas as negotiators, was to him quite sufficient proof of the spirit which animates the Turks, and of the improbability of any good result attending the negotiations.

I see by your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, which I have received this afternoon, that Mr. Jocelyn had pointed out to the Ottoman Government the impolicy of this selection, than which I can imagine nothing more likely to prejudice the chances of a harmonious solution of the questions at issue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 301.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 38. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, March 11, 1877.*

WITH reference to Mr. Jocelyn's telegram of the day before yesterday, respecting the demands of Montenegro, I would remark that, while as yet Prince Nicholas continues to declare that he will not abate one item of his pretensions, there are at any rate two points upon which, whatever he may decide upon with regard to the others, I am confident it will be useless to attempt to persuade him to give way.

He will not make peace without obtaining the cession of Nichsich and the Douga Pass on the northern, and (probably) of the Kutchi district on the south-eastern frontier.

Nor will he consent to any terms which do not include adequate security for, and his own co-operation in, the undisturbed restoration of the refugees to their homes, with

provision for their immediate wants and protection from the vengeance of the Mussulmans. Indeed, he cannot do otherwise; for it would be impossible to effect the return of these refugees, unless he can personally declare to them that they may re-enter the Herzegovina in safety.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 302.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 39. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, March 11, 1877.*

PRINCE NICHOLAS told me yesterday that he intended to summon certain of the insurgent Herzegovinian Chiefs to Cettigné this week, for the purpose of having them at hand in the event of its being necessary to concert upon measures rendered expedient by the turn of the negotiations at Constantinople.

Their presence here would in fact be equally imperative either in view of peace or of a recommencement of hostilities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

P.S.—Since writing the above I learn that Prince Nicholas has received telegrams from the Chiefs stating that it would be impossible for them to come to Cettigné this week. I presume that one very excellent reason may be that the quantity of snow makes locomotion in these mountainous regions a matter of extreme difficulty.

E. M.

No. 303.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 40. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, March 11, 1877.*

I CANNOT as yet report any modification, in a pacific sense, of Prince Nicholas' language respecting the conditions of peace with the Porte. I had a long conversation with His Highness yesterday, and found, I am sorry to say, that his tenacity to the demands he has made is as great as ever. He repeated that Spitza was the only point upon which he was likely to yield; and remarked that as the seaport had been omitted from the propositions of the Great Powers, he had less difficulty in deferring to the wishes of Austria that he should not insist upon it.

But as to all the rest of the programme he was inexorable, and spoke in terms more uncompromising, I think, than I have yet heard fall from his lips.

He said, for instance, that he had offers of assistance from Servians who were ashamed of the defeat and humiliation of their Principality; that fifty Servian officers had offered him their services; and that he could reckon upon foreign volunteers to the extent of several thousands in number, quite as many as he should want; that if the Turks could penetrate as far as Grahowo on the north, and Danilograd on the south, it would be the utmost that they could do; that in the worst of cases the Slav Committees would supply him with vessels sufficient to send out of the country the women and children; and that with the fighting population he would hold the mountains, which the Turks would never be able to over-run; that he could continue the struggle under these circumstances for two or three years; and that then, if Europe had no compassion on him, he would emigrate to America with the remnant of his people. He observed that he had seen in the Blue Book that I had stated that the present condition of Montenegro is a disaster to Europe, and that I must therefore admit that he had no choice but to push his pretensions at the risk of eventual annihilation.

Your Lordship will certainly think that such language is the outcome of bravado and exaggeration; and yet it was uttered in a very simple, earnest, straightforward way. I could not, of course, avoid showing much astonishment as its purport, upon which the

Prince said, "Vous croyez que je parle poëtiquement; mais je vous donne ma parole d'honneur que c'est tout ce qu'il y a de plus sérieux, ce que je viens de vous dire."

And I cannot but think that His Highness has in truth thoroughly persuaded himself that he is doing the right thing. He has repeatedly said to me: "J'ai la conscience nette, devant Dieu, et devant mon peuple; c'est tout ce qu'il me faut." And, as a matter of fact, his spirits have risen during the last two or three weeks, the conclusion of peace by Servia seeming not in the least to discourage him. I am myself amazed when I see this man, upon whose decision such grave events may depend, enjoying like a schoolboy the desperate snow-balling contests in which his Senators, Aides-de-camp, and Guards employ their leisure, and in which irreverent missiles do not always spare his own Princely person.

I wish that I could persuade myself that his apparent freedom from apprehension gave promise of a disposition to spare his country the horrors of further bloodshed; but I do not feel myself justified as yet in encouraging Her Majesty's Government with any such idea.

My Austrian colleague, who has known the Prince intimately for many years, although more sanguine than I am that His Highness may eventually change his mind, does not conceal from me his conviction that, unless the Porte makes very substantial concessions, there is a certainty of the renewal of hostilities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 304.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 41. Political.)
Cettigné, March 12, 1877.

My Lord,

THE Austrian Government, through Baron Rodich, Governor of Dalmatia, has been making complaints to Prince Nicholas of the movements of insurgents in the Sutorina, and of the danger of collisions between them and the Austrian troops on the frontier.

The Prince proposed, through my Austrian colleague, to send an officer and a detachment of Montenegrins into the district to treat directly with the Austrian Commandant at Castelnuovo; but Baron Rodich declined, and I think very properly, to acquiesce in any such arrangement, the Sutorina having been neutralised by the Delimitation Commission.

Colonel Thömmel thinks that this view of the case is over fastidious; but I pointed out to him that Montenegro could not take the step he had advocated without giving the Turks good ground for saying that the decisions of the Commission had been violated. Colonel Thömmel has, however, but little respect for the decisions arrived at by the Commissioners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 305.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 42. Political.)
Cettigné, March 12, 1877.

My Lord,

MY Austrian colleague informs me that he has received a telegram from Count Andrassy communicating the report of the Austro-Hungarian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople respecting the propositions made by Moukhtar Pasha to the Montenegrin Delegates at the second meeting of the negotiators.

These propositions include portions of the Zubci, Banjani, Piva, and Drobniak districts—excluding always Nichsichi and the Douga—in exchange for the cession by Montenegro of the Wassoievitchi!

The Montenegrin Delegates very naturally reject such inadequate proposals, and have simply replied that they maintain the demands made in the terms of their instructions.

The Austro-Hungarian Chargé d'Affaires adds that Safvet Pasha had asked him to exert his influence with the Montenegrin Delegates to persuade them to content themselves

on this occasion with the Porte's offers. Baron Herbert had declined to accede to this request.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 306.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, March 22.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 21 *Mars*, 1877.

LES négociations avec les délégués Monténégrins n'ayant pas encore abouti, le Gouvernement Impérial a cru devoir prolonger jusqu'au $\frac{1}{13}$ Avril exclusivement l'armistice dont le terme a expiré aujourd'hui. Des ordres en conséquence ont été donnés à nos commandants militaires, et son Altesse le Grand Vizir a télégraphié cette prolongation au Prince Nicolas.

No. 307.

Mr. Law to Lord Tenterden.—(Received March 22.)

My Lord, *Treasury Chambers, March* 22, 1877.

IN reply to your letter of yesterday's date, intimating to this Board that the Secretary of State considers it desirable that, in the present state of affairs in the Turkish provinces, there should be an officer of the rank of Consul at Adrianople, instead of a Vice-Consul, as is now the case, I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to request you will inform the Earl of Derby that, under the circumstances represented, they will not withhold their consent to the additional expenditure which will be incurred in the transfer (as proposed) of Mr. Blunt, the present Consul at Salonica, to Adrianople, as a temporary arrangement, on the understanding that instructions are sent to Mr. Blunt to report immediately on arrival at his new post, the sum for which he can hire a suitable house, and the amount of the other expenses which he will have to incur, as stated in the last paragraph of your letter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM LAW.

No. 308.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Teheran, March* 22, 1877.

THE Governor of Asterabad reports by telegraph that as the result of communications which had passed between General Lomakin and their Chiefs, the Venikeh Turkomans of Kizlervad and Bamehboormeh had submitted to Russia; the other Chiefs of the Akhal were about to tender their allegiance also to that Power. General Lomakin was sending an expedition to Kizlervad and Bamehboormeh, and intended to erect forts there. He had called upon the Yemoot tribe to furnish 3,000 camels and 200 horsemen, and threatened, if they were refused, to take them by force, as on a former occasion. The Yemoot Chiefs were consequently making arrangements to comply with this requisition. Communicated to Viceroy.

No. 309.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 22, 1877, 2·35 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 21st, Vice-Consul Dupuis should go or send some trustworthy person to ascertain the truth respecting the reported outrages.

No. 310.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March* 22, 1877, 8 P.M.

THE Russian Ambassador having proposed some further alterations which his Government desired made in the Protocol, I told him and General Ignatiew yesterday that it seemed inexpedient to discuss verbal amendments until an understanding had been arrived at on the question of demobilization. As that was the inducement held out to Her Majesty's Government to sign the Protocol, and the assurance of it was our justification for so doing, we must be able to lay before Parliament evidence that our object had been secured.

Both the Ambassadors opposed giving an assurance, stating that Turkey was not pledged to disarm; war continued between Turkey and Montenegro, and if the latter were attacked and invaded Russia would be bound in honour to interfere; and thirdly, that, as a question of dignity, it was unsuitable that Russia should be called upon to disarm first.

In reply to an inquiry as to the conditions on which Russian Government would undertake to demobilize, the Ambassadors expressed the opinion, although not authorized to say so officially, that the Emperor would disarm on the following conditions:—

1. That the Porte should take the initiative.
2. That peace should be concluded with Montenegro.
3. That the Turkish reforms should be seriously taken in hand.

Demobilization would be stopped at once in the event of fresh massacres of Christians.

I said that the language of the Russian Ambassador was less reassuring than on previous occasions, but for the present I would content myself by referring their observations to my colleagues.

I have told the above to Count Beust to-day, and you may also confidentially inform Count Andrassy.

No. 311.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 172.) *Foreign Office, March* 22, 1877.

Sir,

ON the receipt of your telegram of yesterday's date to the effect that the British Vice-Consul at Adrianople was making every inquiry respecting the outrages reported to have been committed near that place, I informed you by telegraph that Mr. Vice-Consul Dupuis should be instructed either to go himself or to send some trustworthy person to ascertain the exact facts of the case.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 311*.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 106. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March* 22, 1877.

My Lord,

I INCLOSE, for your confidential information, copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh recording an interview which I had yesterday with Count Schouvaloff and General Ignatiew.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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* No. 295.

No. 312.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 90. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 22, 1877.

I INCLOSE copy of a despatch to Lord A. Loftus containing a report of an interview which I had yesterday with Count Schouvaloff and General Ignatiew, in which we discussed the question of Russian demobilization.*

Count Beust having called upon me to-day I communicated to him the substance of this despatch, and I authorize your Excellency to do the same confidentially to Count Andrassy.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 313.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23.)

(No. 20. Political.)

My Lord, *Tiflis, February* 1, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith inclosed to your Lordship ten inclosures in reference to the numbers and disposition of the Russian forces in the Caucasus.

No. 1 gives the ordinary peace establishment; it is compiled from a Russian work published at Tiflis in 1875. During peace time a certain number of regiments are quartered on each side of the Kasbek. A statement of those usually stationed on each side will be found on a reference to Nos. 2 and 3.

In No. 4 we have the ordinary number of troops maintained in the province of Daghistan. The extraordinary is also therein given.

No. 5 shows the war strength of the army of the Caucasus.

The battalions are calculated at 840 men each, including the officers; the squadrons at 100 each; and the batteries at 150 men each.

Since drawing up the tables herewith sent, I have been informed, by good authority, that the battalions on an average are not more than 830, with the exception of the Grenadiers, these being 880, including officers. The batteries, I am told, vary from 120 to 150 men.

The estimate, therefore, herewith sent, will not be far from that which in reality exists.

On a reference to No. 2 it will be noticed that the total of the army on the Tiflis side during peace time was not more than 45,416 men of all arms, and that 15,414 (see No. 6) men were required to bring the same up to its proper war strength.

From statement 3 it will be also noticed that during peace time the army on the other side of the Caucasus was 32,256 men, and that its war establishment (see No. 6) amounted to 56,490 men, more or less. We may therefore assume that the report spoken of by me in a former despatch of 57,000 men having passed the Vladikafkas was not far removed from the truth. Further 6,000 men have, I am given to understand, arrived in all at Poti from Kutch, Odessa, and other places; deducting these from 15,414 (see No. 6), the number required to bring the army on this side to its full strength, there remain about 9,000, so to say, unaccounted for. Whether or not these or a similar number have passed *viâ* the Caspian to Baku, and from thence to Erivan and other parts of the frontier, I have no means at present of ascertaining; but should such be the case, it is evident that this army has attained its war strength; indeed, adding the 113,300 men mentioned in Table 9 to 16,900, the army of Daghistan, we have 129,200, a number not very different from that given in No. 5 as the total war establishment of the Caucasus.

A quantity of ammunition has, I am told, entered the Caucasus during the last six months at Baku, but I have only lately been made acquainted with this circumstance. Timely notice of such an affair could only have been obtained through the medium of an agent. I should therefore recommend a Vice-Consulate being established at that port. As, however, this is a matter of some little importance, I will address your Lordship thereon on another occasion.

* No. 295.

No. 6 gives the peace and war complements of the respective armies on each side of the Kasbek, not including the force in Daghistan.

In No. 7 we have an approximative estimate of the number of troops required as a minimum for maintaining order and tranquillity in the places therein mentioned. To these might also be added garrisons at Erivan, Elizabethpol, and Baku, the Tartar population in these districts not being less than 919,000 souls; I have not, however, included any, as I suppose the local troops ought to be sufficient for that purpose, though this is by some thought somewhat doubtful. The total force then left for general service on Turkish frontier would appear to be about 101,050 men and 42 batteries, or say 107,350 regulars, and a certain number of militia. The latter, I need hardly perhaps remark, might be turned to some slight use for the defending certain positions, but they would be perfectly useless for the offensive; they are for the most part undrilled and without discipline.

In No. 8 it will be seen that the total force available for the offensive belonging to the so-called army of the Caucasus is about 87,540 regular infantry and cavalry and 37 batteries, or in all, 93,090 men.

No. 9 shows the numbers and disposition of the Russian troops on the Turkish frontier at present as reported to me from various sources.

At Alexandropol are, I believe, stationed the Grenadier division, part of the 39th division, or nearly all of it, and 2 battalions of rifles.

The different proportions of the cavalry and artillery at that place would seem to be more or less correct.

Half the 19th division is stationed at Erivan; indeed the last reports received by me gave at Erivan as follows:—

8 battalions of the 19th division.
3 battalions of some other division not known, but probably the 21st.
1 local.
1 ditto Kornando.
4 regiments of Cossacks.
1 ditto of Dragoons.
1 brigade, or 6 batteries of the 19th division.

Between Akhalzikh and Akhalkalaki are, I believe, the 20th and 38th divisions.
The 41st division is divided between Kutais, Poti, and Nikolaya, Ozurget, &c.
The 21st, or rather 12 battalions of it, are in Daghistan.
Of the seven line battalions four are said to be on the Black Sea coast, the remainder in Daghistan.

At Tiflis are half the 19th division, three local battalions, one Chasseur.

The distribution of these troops, it must be borne in mind, is not made altogether with a view to tactical advantages but rather with regard to the facilities afforded for obtaining provisions and accommodation during the inclemency of the season.

Between Akhalzikh and Erivan there are about 66,000 infantry, 10,200 cavalry, and 27 batteries, in all 80,250 men and 216 guns. Between Akhalzikh, Poti, and Nikolaya there would appear to be about 18,446 regular infantry, 1,500 cavalry, and 5 batteries, in all 20,690 men (regulars), and 6,000 militia, to which, by the way, should be added 1,200 gunners; whether these latter are regular troops or merely militia I do not know. The above numbers would, it may be remarked, seem to correspond to a certain extent with the information furnished by me in despatch No. 12 of the 17th of December last.

The principal points of concentration are at present Erivan, Alexandropol, and Akhalzikh, Tiflis and Kutais forming the nucleus of the reserve required for the support of the flanks.

The Turks on their part are said to have 160,000 men under arms at Karso Erzrum. How far this may be true I have no means of ascertaining, but should it be the case it is reasonable to suppose, the Russians having but 93,090 men to oppose to this, that an invasion of Asia Minor, unless the army of the Caucasus be augmented, will not meet with much chance of success.

In No. 10 will be found a rough sketch of the port of Poti and its defences; the original was unfortunately not drawn to scale, nevertheless, it will enable one to form a good idea of the positions of the respective batteries.

I hear that the General commanding at Soukom if attacked by the Turks will most probably abandon that post and retire viâ Sugdidi on Kutais, uniting the Soukom force with the army of the Rion under Aguabsi. This latter personage is a Montenegrin by birth, and is said to be a very indifferent General.

Some persons imagine that the inhabitants of the Caucasus, in the event of war

breaking out, will at once rise against Russia. I am, however, rather inclined to the belief that such a movement will depend on the results achieved by the Russian forces. The Georgians, Armenians, Tartars, and people of Daghistan all hate their rulers it is true, but they will not take any hostile measures against them until it has been proved that their army has been defeated and their territory invaded by their enemies.

Much of the matter herein written has been already touched upon in former despatches; thinking, however, it would be more useful if condensed into a smaller compass I have reduced it in the form of the tables herewith sent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. T. RICKETTS.

P.S.—The number of mortars and guns as mentioned in Table 10 are quite correct.

Herewith is also inclosed a list of some of the chief routes in the Caucasus; the distances are taken from the Russian post-book.

G. T. R.

Inclosure in No. 313.

PEACE Establishment of the Army of Caucasus.

INFANTRY.

No. of Divisions.	Names of Divisions.	No. of Battalions.	No. of Men per Battalion.	Total.
4	Grenadiers, 21st, 28th, 19th ..	64	640	40,960
3	20th, 38th, 39th	48	480	23,040
	Rifles	2	640	1,280
		2	480	960
	Sappers	3	600	1,800
	Line	7	640	4,480
	Regular	126	..	72,520
	Local	3	300	900
	Fortress	3	100	1,200
	Irregular Foot Cossacks ..	2	480	960
		134	..	75,580

ARTILLERY.

Brigades, Foot.	No. of Batteries.	No. of Guns.	No. of Men.
7	49	274	3,412

CAVALRY.

	Regiments.	Squadrons.	No. per Squadron.	Total.
Dragoons	4	24	100	2,400
		47	100	4,700
Terek and Kuban Cossacks ..	..	33	100/3 say	1,000
Daghistan Irregulars . ..	..	17	..	1,700
	..	121	..	9,800

TOTAL PEACE ESTABLISHMENT.

Infantry	75,580
Cavalry	9,800
Artillery	3,412

(2.)—Approximative Statement of Troops employed on this side of the Caucasus in Peace, not including the Force in Daghistan.

Infantry.

Divisions.	No. of Battalions.	No. of Men per Battalion.	Total.
Grenadiers, 21st, 39th, 41st ..	52	640	33,280
4			
Rifles	1	640	640
Sappers	1	600	600
Line	4	640	2,560
Regular	58	..	37,080
Fortress	3	..	1,200
Local	3	..	900
	64	..	39,180

Artillery.

Brigades.	No. of Batteries.	Total Guns.	Total Men.	Horses per Gun.	Total Horses.
21st	1	8	96	8	64
Grenadiers	6	40	480	8	320
39th	6	40	480	8	320
41st	6	40	480	8	320
	19	128	1,536	..	1,124

Cavalry.

	Squadrons.	No. of Men.
15th Dragoons	4	400
Kuban Cossacks	30	3,000
Terek Cossacks	12	1,200
	46	4,600

Total.

Infantry	39,180
Cavalry	4,600
Artillery	1,036
	45,416

The above is taken from a Russian work published at Tiflis in 1875.

(3.)—Troops employed on the other side of the Caucasus during Peace, not including those on Service in Daghistan.

Infantry.

Divisions.	No. of Battalions.	No. of Men per Battalion.	Total.
20th, 38th, 19th	48	480	23,040
Rifles	2	640	1,280
Sappers	2	600	1,200
Regular	52	..	25,520
Local	1	300	300
Cossacks	2	480	960
	55	..	26,780

Artillery.

Brigades.	No. of Battalions.	No. of Guns.	No. of Men per Gun.	Total Men.	No. of Horses per Gun.	No. of Horses.
20th	6	40	12	480	8	320
38th	6	40	12	480	8	320
19th	6	40	12	480	8	320
Horse	7	28	12	336	8	224
	25	148	..	1,776	..	1,184

Cavalry.

	Squadrons.	Men.
Dragoons	20	2,000
Cossacks	38	1,300
Terek Militia	11	400
	69	3,700

Total.

Infantry	26,780
Cavalry	3,700
Artillery	1,776
	32,256

The above is taken from a Russian work published at Tiflis in the year 1875.

(4.)—Ordinary Establishment in Daghistan.

Infantry.

Divisions.	Regiments.	Battalions.	No. of Men per Battalion.	Total.
21st Division	81st	4	640	2,560
	82nd	4	640	2,560
	83rd	4	640	2,560
Line battalions	..	3	640	1,920
Rifles	..	1	700	700
Total	..	16	..	10,300

Cavalry.

	Squadrons.	No. of Men.
Daghistan Irregulars ..	6	600
Daghistan Militia	11	1,100
Total	17	1,700

Artillery.

	Batteries.	Guns.	Men.
21st Brigade	4	32	600

	Infantry.	Cavalry.	Artillery.
Total peace complement ..	10,300	1,700	600 = 12,600
War complement	3,000	Nil.	300 3,300
Total	13,300	1,700	900 = 15,000

Extraordinary, 15,900 + militia.

(5.)—War Establishment of Army of Caucasus.

Infantry.

No. of Division.	Names of Division.	Nos. of Battalions.	No. of Men in each Battalion.	Total.
7	Grenadiers; 19th, 20th, 21st, 38th, 39th, and 41st ..	112	840	94,080
	Rifles	4	700	2,800
	Sappers	3	900	2,700
	Line	7	840	5,880
	Regulars	126	..	105,460
	Local	3	640	1,920
	Fortress	3	800	2,400
	Cossack	2	..	1,600
		134	..	111,380

Artillery.

Brigades.	No. of Batteries.	No. of Guns per Battery.	Total Guns.	Men per Battery.	Total Men.	Horses per Battery.
7 Foot	42	8	336	150	6,300	120
1 Horse	7	8	56	150	1,050	120
	49	8	392	..	7,350	..

There are no mitrailleuses in this army, with the exception of a very few in store in Tiflis. The guns are 9- and 4-pounders.

Cavalry.

	Regiments.	Squadrons.	Men per Squadron.	Total.
Dragoons	4	24	100	2,400
Terek and Cuban Cossacks ..	..	80	100	8,000
Terek Militia	..	11	100	1,100
Kutais	..	5	100	500
Daghistan Irregulars	..	6	100	600
Daghistan Militia	..	11	100	1,100
Total	..	137	..	13,700

	No.
Infantry	111,380
Cavalry	13,700
Artillery	7,350
Total	132,430

Note.—Since writing this Report I have ascertained that the average of the infantry battalions is 830, and the 16 battalions of Grenadiers, 860 men each, officers included. The result will be nearly the same. The batteries vary from 120 to 150 men each; they are here given at 150.

(6.)—Table showing War Complements (Approximative) for the Army on each side of the Kasbek.

Tiflis Side.

	Infantry.	Cavalry.	Artillery.	Total.
Peace	39,180	4,000	1,636	45,416
War complement	13,700	500	1,214	15,414
	52,880	5,100	2,850	60,830

Stavropol Side.

	Infantry.	Cavalry.	Artillery.	Total.
Peace	26,780	3,700	1,776	32,256
War complement	19,060	3,200	1,974	24,234
	45,840	6,900	3,750	56,490

	No.
Infantry	98,720
Cavalry	12,000
Artillery (44 batteries)	6,600
Total	117,320

Note.—On the Tiflis side it will be seen the army kept up was stronger than on the other side.

(7.)—Approximative Statement of Number of Troops required for Maintaining Order in undermentioned Places (Minimum).

Names of Places.	No. of Battalions.	No. of Men.	No. of Squadrons.	No. of Men.	No. of Batteries.	Guns.	
Daghistan	16	13,300	17	1,700	5	48	+ Militia.
Anapa, Novorossiisk, and Soukum ..	4	3,320	..	..	..	..	Ditto.
Tiflis	3 (local)	2,520	2	200	2	16	Ditto.
Poti	½	200	½	50	..	..	Ditto.
Erivan	1	840	2	200	..	..	Ditto.
Alexandropol ..	1 (fortress)	800	2	200	..	..	Ditto.
Akhalsikh	½ (fortress)	400	2	200	..	..	Ditto.
Total	..	21,480	..	2,550	7	..	

Total Force left for Service on Turkish Frontier.

		Infantry.	Cavalry.	Artillery.
				Batteries.
As per Table No. 5 ..	+	111,380	13,700	49
As above Table	−	21,480	2,550	7
		89,900	11,150	42

Total, 101,050 men + 42 batteries, and Militia.

(8.)—Approximative Statement showing Number of Troops required as a Minimum at undermentioned Places, an Attack being at same time meditated against Turkish Frontier.

Names of Places.	No. of Battalions.	No. of Men.	No. of Squadrons.	No. of Men.	No. of Batteries.	No. of Guns.	Militia.	
Anapa and Soukum				See Table 7.				
Nikolayn	3	2,500	2	200	1	8	1,500	
Ozurget	1	840	1	100	1	8	2,000	+ Guns in position.
Poti	1	840	½	50	..	..	..	+ Guns in position.
Kutais	5	4,200	3	300	2	16	3,000	
Orpiri	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,000	+ Gunners.
Akhalzikh ..	1	840	1	100	..	..	1,000	See also Table 7.
Akhalkalaki ..	½	420	..	..	..	..	1,000	
Alexandropol ..	2	1,680	3	300	1	8	2,000	See Table 7.
Tiflis	1	840	..	..	..	..	..	See Table 7.
Erivan	Regular ..	..	3	300	..	..	2,000	See Table 7.
Total	14½	12,160	13½	1,350	5	40	13,500	

Total remaining for passing frontier—

	Infantry.	Cavalry.	Artillery.
			Batteries.
(See Table 7)	89,900	11,150	42
As above	12,160	1,350	5
Total	77,740	9,800	37

Total regulars .. .. .. 93,080 men.

(9.)—Showing Supposed Disposition of Troops on Turkish Frontier up to February 9, 1877, as reported from various sources.

Names of Places.	Infantry.	Cavalry.	Batteries.	No. of Guns.	No. of Guns in Position.	Gunners for same.	Militia.
At and near to Alexandropol	30,000	4,200	16	128	..	..	1,000
Akhalkalaki	6,000	1,200	..	..	..	..	..
Erivan	10,000	3,800	6	48	..	..	..
At and near to Akhalzikh	20,100	1,000	5	40	..	..	2,000
Ozurget	800	500	1	8	..	..	..
Orpiri	..	..	..	..	30	400	..
Nikolaya	3,360	500	..	..	..	..	..
Poti	840	30	..	..	50	800	..
Kutais	10,080	..	4	32	..	..	4,000
Tiflis, including the three local battalions	9,480	300	5	40	..	..	1,000
Soukum	2,500	500	..	..	..	..	1,500
Anapa Noverossiith ..	2,500*	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other places on Black Sea	..	..	..	..	32	320	..
Michaeloff (near Souram Pass)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	95,720	12,030	37	296	118	1,520	10,000

	Cavalry and Infantry.	Batteries.
Total	107,750 ..	37

Total, 113,300 + 10,000 militia.

* But doubtful if so many.

Inclosure 2 in No. 313.

Distances from and to Various Places in the Caucasus.

Akhalzikh to Alexandropol and Erivan.

		Versts.		Height above Sea.
				Feet.
Akhalzikh to Idumala		21		..
Wakalakoi		22	Carriage road, but bad.	5,345
Akhalkalaki		17		..
Bandubau		53		5,079
Alexandropol ..		20		..
		141		4,209
Delijani		97		..
Sumemoskaya ..		12	Good carriage road, with the exception of 30 versts near Alexandropol.	..
Elenovskaya ..		21		..
N. Akhti		16		..
Fontanka		12		3,229
Erivan		32		
		190		
Total	..	331		

Alexandropol to Tiflis.

Alexandropol to Ortokalisa ..		10		..
Hamamlu ..	..	13	Bad carriage road.	4,730
Karakilisa ..	..	16		..
Delijani ..	..	32		4,200
Taischnicha ..	..	18		..
Karavanserai	..	12		..
Khamoklar ..	..	26	Fair road for carriage.	..
Novo Astafiask	..	4		..
Tiflis ..	..	92		1,495
		223		

Akalkalaki (height above sea, 5,545 feet) to Tiflis.

Akalkalaki to Abul ..	..	12		..
Poka ..	..	14		..
Radidovka ..		8		..
Guma ..	..	18	Bad wheel road.	..
Manglis ..	..	36		..
Elizabetokoi ..	..	14		1,495
Tiflis ..	..	24		
		126		

Kutais to Suram.

Kutais to Svereli ..	..	20		..
Dzeralli ..	..	13		..
Veligori ..	..	9	Railway.	..
Bejentabani ..	..	18		..
Posi	..	10		..
Suram	..	5		
		84		

Samtredi to Nakolaya. Rail at Samtredi

Samtredi to Orpiri ..	..	3		..
Kheni Tykali ..	..	10½		..
Tchukatasur ..	..	12½		..
Nogom Arskaya ..	..	11½	Wheel road.	..
Ozurgeti ..	..	13		..
Nicolaya ..	..	18		
		68½		

Suram to Akhalzikh.

Suram to Promegui Artinain	..	11		..
Borgom ..	..	13	Wheel road.	..
Alebur	..	26		..
Akhalzikh ..	..	20		
		72		

Tiflis to Vladikafkaz.

	Versts.		Height above Sea.
			Feet.
Tiflis to Mosket	20	Good post road for wheels.	..
Ziltaisky	14¾		..
Duchelte	17¾		2,946
Ananur	16¾		2,922
Possanur	21		3,714
Mlety	18½		..
Gudur	15		3,215
Kobi	16		..
Kozbek	18		..
Lars	15		3,888
Balta	16		3,615
Vladikafkaz	12½		3,215
	200¾		

Tiflis to Erivan.

Tiflis to Novo Astafiusk	86	Fair carriage road.	..
Uzunthal	13		..
Karavanserai	17		..
Tartchaiskaya	13		..
Deligani	14		..
Semenovskaya	17		..
Elenoskaya	21		..
Nijni Akliti	16		..
Fontanka	12		..
Euler	17		..
Erivan	15		..
	248		

Akhalzikh viâ Ardahan to Erzrum.

Akhalzikh to Kuck-Kuevski ..	17	Wheel road bad.	..
Idajisansky ..	6½		..
M. Zurumal	24¾		..
Ardahan	18¼		..
Bolsche Chongum ..	9		..
Khas Koi	12½		..
Kinzanfar	14		..
Dost Kilisa	16		..
Pangrich	17		..
Penak	16		..
Tuzla	14		..
Olti	13		..
Ind	20		..
Mukhur Takh	23		..
Zahni	21		..
Kilsoit	17		..
Gans	15		..
Erzrum	18		..
	306¾		

Alexandropol to Erzrum.

Alexandropol to Tekhuis	12	Wheel road indifferent.	..
Kurdara	22		..
Meshko	14		..
Kars	21		..
Tikma	13		..
Kalaudi	11		..
Khana	39		..
Khana	13		..
Euskew	8		..
Karaurgan	5		..
Zovin	5		..
Zanzak	19		..
Ardos	6		..
Azat	5		..
Kupri Koi	20		..
Husun Kuli	16		..
Uzun Ahmet	20		..
Erzrum	14		..
	243		

Erivan to Bajazet.

	Versts.		Height above Sea.
			Feet.
Erivan to Echmiadzin	18	Wheel road.	..
Sardarabad	23		..
Ararat	18		..
Igdoi	14		..
Orgid	15½		..
Muckiosktir	8		..
Bajazet	28		..
	124		

Erzrum to Bajazet.

Erzrum to Uzun Ahmet	14		
Hassan Kale	20		
Kupri Koi	16		
Gaz Veran	21		
Dali Dada	19		
Ishek Ellas	14		
Zedekyan	30		
Chilkan	18		
Kara Kalisa	20		
Zero	16		
Surp Oganz	25		
Ljadin	13		
Bajazet	41		
	267		

Erivan to Erzerum, 391 versts.

From Tiflis to undermentioned places.

	Versts.	
To Alexandropol	223	
Ananur	66	
Anapa	289	
Akhalkalaki	256	Viâ Surum and Akhalzikh.
Aktalzikh	193	„ Surum.
Baku	517	„ Elizabethpol.
Barjuin	147	„ Surum.
Vely Klintch	51	
Vladikafkaz	200¾	
Georgiovsk	401½	„ Vladikafkas and Mozdok.
Gori	74	
Grozny	301	„ Vladikafkas.
Gunib	627¾	„ Vladikafkas and Temir Khan.
Dorbend	649	„ Grosny and Vladikafkas.
Dorbend	698	„ Chemakha.
Deligani	162	
Digelingur	575	„ Vladikafkas.
Djulfa	433	Erivan.
Duchette	63½	
Eisk	1,057	„ Ekaterinodar.
Ekaterinodar	345	
Elizabethpol	186	
Erkali	1,060	„ Tornauskaya.
Essentouki	158	Mineral waters.
Erivan	254	
Jelenovdek	457	Viâ Pintigorsk
Karakalaysk	525	„ Vladikafkas.
Kertsch	1,060	28 miles by sea.
Kizliar	440¾	Viâ Vladikafkas
Kisterdsk	480	„ Pintigorsk.
Kouba	618	
Kutais	215	To station 208 (+ 7 by road).
Labinskaya	910¾	Viâ Maykop.
Leukoran	637	„ Chemakha.
Maykop	858	
Mangha	61	
Nikolaevskaya	253	
Mozdok	287	
Nazranl	220	Viâ Vladikafkas.
Naltchik	402	
Nakshevid	394	

	Versts.	
Novo Bajazet	220	
Nukha	255	Viâ Zakatal.
Ozurgeth	290	„ Samtredi (rail).
Ordubatte	473	„ Erivan.
Orpiri	242	„ Samtredi.
Petrovsk	502	„ Vladikafkas.
„	885	„ Chemakka.
Prokladnaya	348	
Ratigorsk	440	
Rostov	992	On Don.
Poti	289	
Salrani	518	
Stedin Egorlik	767	Viâ Stavropol.
Stavropol	576	
Soukum Kali	436	
Tamanskaya	1,037	„ Vladikafkas, Stadropol, and Ekaterinodar.
Temruk	984	
Temir Khan Chur	506	„ Vladikafkas.
Oumanskaya	1,003	„ Ekaterinodar.
Khan Kendi	312	
Khosaff Tort	413	„ Vladikafkas.
Chemakka	399	„ Elizabethpol.
Chucha	318	
Echmindzin	269	

No. 314.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23.)

(No. 28. Political.)
Tiflis, February 26, 1877.

My Lord,

SINCE writing despatch No. 27 I have ascertained that the remainder of the 38th and 20th Divisions has already passed from the Vladikalkas to the frontier, and is stationed more or less as entered in Table 9, despatch No. 20. At present there are only three battalions at Kutais, the remainder having gone to Nagonia, near Orpuri.

At Shusha, Nukha, Shamakha, and many other places the local troops are still, I hear, armed with muzzle-loading muskets.

Since writing despatch No. 20 I have ascertained from a reliable eye-witness that there are four 15-ton guns on the island at Poti in addition to the mortars therein mentioned.

The batteries at that port are constructed with sacks filled with sand, bomb-proof accommodation having been made for the men.

It is worthy of notice that the Commander of the forces at Alexandropol, Loris Melikoff, and all the officers commanding divisions on the frontier, arrived at Tiflis on the 26th of this month. A Council is to be assembled at Tiflis, though what may the object thereof I have not as yet heard.

In No. 24 I reported the arrival at Engeli, on the south of the Caspian, of 170,000 rifles. This circumstance has since been confirmed from another quarter, the number of the rifles being, it is said, 200,000. I am unable to find out whether these arms were sent in virtue of any arrangement entered into between the Persian and Russian Governments, or whether it was merely the fulfilment of some contract made by Persia with a private firm. Information on this point might, no doubt, be able to be obtained from Persia.

As regards the twenty waggons laden with rifles, and sent to Wauk, near the Persian frontier, alluded to in No. 24, I have not as yet been able to find out whether these arms were intended for the people of the Karabagh in Russian territory, or for those of the Karadagh in Persian territory.

I am, however, rather inclined to the belief, as Shusha, and not Wauk, is the military depôt in that part, and as the latter place is not very far from the Persian frontier, that the arms in question were intended for Persia.

It must also be borne in mind that Russian emissaries have for some time past been intriguing in the Karadagh, with the view of detaching the Khans of those districts from their allegiance to the Shah, and also that if the Mussulmans of the Karadagh could be induced to take service with Russia, it would give that Power a large irregular force, for employment either against the Mussulmans of Daghistan, who are Sunnites, or the Turkish Mussulmans of Novo Bajazet.

A rising among the inhabitants of Daghistan having been considered imminent, a

battery (the one spoken of in despatch No. 26) and some 500 infantry have been dispatched to that district, to reinforce the troops stationed there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. T. RICKETTS.

No. 315.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23.)

(No. 31. Political.)
Cettigné, March 6, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE been informed by the Secretary of Prince Nicholas that the Montenegrin Envoys report by telegraph that at the meeting yesterday Safvet Pasha took note of the demands which they had been instructed to make, and which his Excellency said that he would submit to the Grand Council.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 316.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23.)

(No. 32. Political. Confidential.)
Cettigné, March 8, 1877.

My Lord,

I ASKED Prince Nicholas this afternoon if he would tell me, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, what was the minimum that he would accept of the territorial concessions which he had asked of the Porte, and His Highness replied that I might state to your Lordship that in the matter of the seaport he might perhaps give way, but that he was determined not to abate any of his other demands.

If he gave up insisting for a seaport it would only be in deference to the Austrian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 317.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23.)

(No. 34. Political. Confidential.)
Cettigné, March 8, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAD this afternoon a long and interesting conversation with Prince Nicholas, respecting the present posture of affairs.

His Highness is by no means sanguine as to the conclusion of peace; I may almost say that he neither expects it nor seems greatly to desire it.

He spoke long and with animation of the horrors of war, of his own personal repugnance to it, and of his difference in that respect from his predecessors and from the mass of his people. But he said that the honour of his country would not allow him to make peace without obtaining from the Porte what he had instructed his Envoys to ask; and he hardly saw how the Porte would be able to accede satisfactorily to his demands.

His Highness said that he did not wish to be looked upon by all Europe as a public scandal and a disturber of the peace, and he was quite aware of the likelihood of his being so regarded. The honour of the country would, of course, be saved by the acquisition of territory much less in amount than he had asked; but it would be merely mockery to offer him districts in which his authority had for years displaced that of the Turks, and which contained hardly any valuable agricultural land.

Again, he was bound to see that the Herzegovinian refugees were reinstated in their homes with the means of supporting themselves. And this particular point he looked upon as most likely to be fatal to the possibility of a pacific arrangement. Let the Porte grant all the rest of his demands, and even promise to consider with favour those he had made respecting the refugees, it was yet here that the stumbling-block ("la pierre d'achoppement") would be found.

I asked His Highness whether, then, he looked upon the recommencement of hostilities as almost inevitable? "Yes," was his reply, "we shall have to fire some more shots for the honour of Montenegro." But what would his people say? His people, he answered, were anxious to begin again. Far from being discouraged at peace having been made by Servia, they were delighted that they had now a chance of fighting the Turk single-handed. They, indeed, will not admit that "Servia has made peace;" they insist that she "has surrendered."

Such, in brief, was Prince Nicholas' language to me this afternoon, held with eloquence and animation to which I have done but scant justice, but with an earnestness which did away with any idea of exaggeration or bravado. I will not take upon myself to say that His Highness will yield to no pressure; but that at the moment he spoke his mind honestly and with no after-thought, I think I know him well enough to assert. He believes in the future of the Slav movement, and that even a severe reverse to his arms would not really compromise the share which Montenegro will have in that future. Whether his enthusiasm is encouraged by the assurance that he will not long be allowed to fight for the cause alone and unaided, I cannot tell; but that he is ready to run even the risk of a single-handed war, his solemn declaration of to-day hardly, I fear, permits me to doubt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 318.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 11. Political.)

Bosna Serai, March 8, 1877.

My Lord,

I THINK it my duty to inform your Lordship, that, since my return to Serajevo, I have observed a certain distrust and reserve towards me on the part of some of the authorities and chief Mussulmans, which I can only imagine to be due to the publication in the Blue Books, and republication in Turkish here, of many of my despatches, which have spoken truthfully, though not very flatteringly, of the character of the governing classes in Bosnia; and also by the Turkish versions of the attitude of England at the late Conference, which they have assumed to have been friendly to Russia, and hostile to themselves.

I have, therefore, thought it my duty to explain to them, that, in the conduct of the British Government there has been no question of hostility to Turkey, or friendship for Russia. That the efforts of Great Britain have been employed to bring about a peaceful solution of difficulties which endanger the very existence of Turkey, and that the only manner to do this was to go with Russia, as far as was just and reasonable, so as to be able to restrain her from action, and persistence in what was neither desirable for Turkey, nor Europe in general. I have pointed out to them that their Government and themselves have, by their own conduct, rendered the position of their friends almost impossible; but that even now the desire of Great Britain is to see them, if there is yet any hope, prosperous and powerful; but that this is utterly impossible as long as their Christian fellow subjects are oppressed and ill-treated, and the character of their Government remains the same.

Some of them, of course, deny that the Christians are ill-treated. Others admit that they have many just causes of complaint, but that the Mussulmans are almost as badly off. One very good Bosniac observed "what you say is not to be denied, and, though it is true that Russia has applied the match, we ourselves have always fanned the flames."

I have reminded them of the long years during which England has steadily supported and befriended them, and asked them whether, in private life, they would continue to do the same to any person whose promises of good conduct were never fulfilled, who was always affording justification for the assertions of his enemies, who ill-treated his dependents, who borrowed money which was squandered, and of which repayment was refused, and who, finally, repudiated advice given for his own safety and reinstatement. I added that they and their Government had one chance more, and that was to avail of the present to show that there was a real determination to reform their wretchedly corrupt and unjust system of administration, and substantially improve the condition of their Christian subjects, in which case I felt convinced, that they would have no cause to complain of the attitude of Great Britain towards them.

No. 317*.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 10. Political.)

Bosna Serai, March 7, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE no doubt that your Lordship is sufficiently weary of the question of impalements in Bosnia, and it was not my intention to have written another word on the subject. Mr. McColl, however, in a late letter to the "Times," mentions that Mr. Freeman reported from this Consulate, on the 17th March, 1876, that a certain Rado Buyich was said to have been impaled near Novi; while I, on the other hand, declared that for the last twenty years I had not heard of a single instance of this old barbarous custom. All this is perfectly true, and, as I see that Parliament has asked for a copy of Mr. Freeman's despatch, I think it my duty to give your Lordship some explanation on the subject.

When the despatch in question was written, I was on my way from Constantinople to Serajevo. When I arrived here my time was wholly occupied in my endeavours to induce the authorities and the Mussulmans to allow the Christians to use bells in their churches, as reported to your Lordship. I only remained a week, but I did not, however, neglect to read over the despatches which had been written during my absence. That of March 17th represented nothing more to my mind than a repetition of the same cruelties and complaints which I had been hearing ever since the insurrection broke out, always difficult to prove, but which I had come to regard as, under the circumstances, inevitable, and if not all true, at least, all probable.

At that time, there having been no question of impalements, this peculiar atrocity, among others, did not attract my attention, and I subsequently stated, what I believed to be true, that I had not heard for many years of a single instance of this cruelty. Little or no impression either seems to have been made on any one here, as it is to be remarked that when the question of impalements on the Save were discussed, not one of my colleagues or any one else recollected or alluded in any manner to the case in question. Most, if not all, of these atrocities have been denied by the Turkish authorities; but I do not in any way avail of this circumstance, or give it any weight, as it is natural that they would do so.

A M. Heinrich Renner, special correspondent of the "Golos," however, has published, in the "Daily News" of 6th February, a letter, in which he states that himself and several Austrian officers were eye-witnesses of this atrocity, mentioning the same name and place as given in Mr. Freeman's despatch, and I have not the slightest intention of disputing the evidence given in this case. Their testimony, I may remark, with the fact of the matter having been reported here, and made known in Austrian newspapers, as is asserted, is of a very different nature from that of the Rev. Mr. MacColl with regard to his cases of impalements on the banks of the Save. He relied on his own eyesight while passing the object he saw at a certain distance. His statement would probably never have been given to the world, if, instead of so readily accepting the information tendered him by the Sclave steward on board the steamer in which he was travelling, he had cleansed his field-glass from the haze of the apparently cherished preconceptions by which it was clouded, and looked again. There is nothing astonishing that, considering all the peculiar circumstances of the case, he should have been mislead by his own eyes.

However, I would ask any impartial person whether the inference to be deduced from the establishment of this case of impalement is in favour of Mr. MacColl's statement, or the reverse.

It seems to me that if, in a very remote part of Bosnia at the deserted station of a railway—by which, I believe, no more than a couple of third class passengers per day have ever been known to travel—this atrocity, committed by the infuriated inhabitants, was detected and brought to public notice, the inference clearly is that repeated impalements by the military authorities along the public highway of the Save, would, *à fortiori*, have not failed to have immediately become widely known, whereas no one individual has yet appeared to substantiate them.

Your Lordship will remember that my attention has almost entirely been directed to the question of the impalements avouched by Mr. MacColl on the banks of the Save. That these never occurred every possible information tends to show, but I have never on any occasion denied that atrocities have been committed in Bosnia during the insurrection. I am sorry to say that, without doubt, they have been far too frequent on both sides.

Mr. MacColl, in his last letter, states that I sought to discredit his evidence for three reasons:—

First, that for the last twenty years I had never heard of a single instance of impalement in Europe, or even in Asia.

This I affirm was strictly true until a few days ago, when I read his own letter mentioning Mr. Freeman's despatch, on referring to which I was for the first time aware that an impalement had been reported.

He continues by declaring that my second and third reasons were, that the Austrian authorities had never heard of any case of impalements in Bosnia, and that the Austrian press had never mentioned any impalements, omitting to add, what he must have known I meant, "on the banks of the Save," as reported by himself, to which my attention had been particularly directed, and to which, as I could not possibly speak with certainty as to what might have occurred in every corner of Bosnia, I have always referred.

I refrain to qualify the nature of these statements by any epithets similar to those which abound in Mr. MacColl's letters.

I think your Lordship will admit that the subject of the alleged impalements on the bank of the Save is, as far as I am concerned, completely exhausted, and I shall write nothing more about it.

In connection with the reports of atrocities such as are mentioned in Mr. Freeman's despatch, I feel it necessary to state to your Lordship that they do not in any way impress me as they probably would a stranger, because I have so often heard them repeated, and in most of the cases I have taken the trouble to investigate—which during my seventeen years' residence here have not been few—I have, in general, found them false, or so exaggerated as to be unworthy of attention.

The utter disregard of truth by the natives of Bosnia, and it seems to me by the Sclaves in general, is something incredible to persons of less experience of them than myself; and, in support of this conclusion, and to explain the incredulity which, I confess, I always entertain with regard to the greater part of the complaints and assertions which come to my knowledge, I think, if the matter is of interest to your Lordship, I cannot do better than to refer to a despatch written by me soon after my arrival here, No. 67 of October 11, 1860, also to despatch Political, No. 13 of July 8, 1865, reporting on the alleged violences of the Turks towards the Christians put forward by Servia. Besides the questions alluded to in these despatches, I can safely assert that, in all the numerous individual cases I have investigated, nine out of ten have turned out to be unfounded, or grossly exaggerated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

They said that these remarks should be addressed to the men in power at Constantinople.

I replied that they had been, but that, unfortunately, I could not say whether they would have any useful effect.

My words, in most cases, seemed to obtain a conviction of their truth and justice, and I hope that they may have the result of preserving and restoring my friendly relations with the Bosnine Mussulmans here, which have been formed and maintained by the persuasion that, if I have not hesitated to speak the truth as to their shortcomings, I have always endeavoured to defend them when unjustly calumniated.

I trust I have said nothing that your Lordship would hesitate to endorse.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 319.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23.)

(No. 220.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 10, 1877.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 9th instant, informing me that you had authorized Lord O. Russell to contradict a report, as being unfounded, that you had requested General Ignatiew not to come to London, because his presence there would embarrass Her Majesty's Government, I have the honour to state that Count Andrassy mentioned this report to me some days ago. I, therefore, requested Baron Orczy to-day to acquaint his Excellency with your Lordship's contradiction of it, with reference to which, I am told, his Excellency observed that it may have been Count Schouvaloff who had expressed an objection to General Ignatiew coming to London.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 320.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23.)

(No. 222.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 10, 1877.*

I HAVE mentioned to Baron Orczy that Prince Gortchakow has informed Lord Augustus Loftus, as reported in his Lordship's telegram of the 8th instant, that Prince Bismarck has expressed his entire concurrence in the proposals of Russia, which were about to be submitted to Her Majesty's Government respecting the Eastern question.

His Excellency said, in reply, that this statement was not entirely correct, as his Highness had, he understood, merely expressed an opinion that the proposed Protocol or final act of the Conference did not appear to contain provisions which would be objectionable as engaging the future action of the Powers in any way which might be embarrassing to them.

Whilst stating this, Baron Orczy professed not to have seen the proposed Protocol, or to be aware of the terms in which it is drawn up.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 321.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23.)

(No. 224.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 10, 1877.*

BARON ORCZY, during an interview which I had with him this morning, was sent for by Count Andrassy; and I therefore asked him to communicate to his Excellency a Memorandum containing a list of the reforms in Turkey, which Mr. Jocelyn states in his telegram of the 8th instant are already in the course of execution.

On Baron Orczy's resuming our conversation soon afterwards, he said that Count Andrassy had received my communication with much interest and satisfaction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 322.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23.)

(No. 236.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 14, 1877.*

ACCORDING to intelligence which has been received here, it appears that a resolution has been adopted by the Grand Council at Constantinople, to which the demands of Montenegro had been referred, that no important territorial extension should be granted to the Principality; and I am told that Count Andrassy therefore stated to-day to the Turkish Ambassador that, though he did not wish to interfere in the negotiations now pending between the Porte and Prince Nicholas, he must strongly advise the Turkish Government, as a friend, to make concessions to Prince Nicholas in harmony with the recommendations of the late Conference, if they are desirous of a peaceful termination of the present difficulties of the Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 323.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23.)

(No. 239.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 15, 1877.*

THE messenger Hare delivered to me to-day your Lordship's despatch No. 70 of the 12th instant, transmitting the draft of a Protocol and a Memorandum respecting the affairs of Turkey, which had been communicated to you by Count Schouvaloff.

On my calling subsequently on Count Andrassy I found that the Russian Ambassador had just communicated to him a telegram from Prince Gortchakow, stating that all the Powers had signified their readiness to comply with the proposal of the Russian Government for the signature of a Protocol except Austria-Hungary, and intimating that her answer was anxiously expected.

His Excellency said that, as it was impossible to answer a proposal before it had been made to him, he stated to M. de Novikow that though he might agree to sign a Protocol, he could express no opinion as to one, with the text of which he was not officially acquainted, and respecting which his information had been principally received by contradictory telegrams from the Austrian Ambassadors at London and Paris. He then said that it appeared from Count Beust's reports that Her Majesty's Government had already accepted the principle of the Russian proposals, and he asked whether I was instructed to ascertain his opinions with respect to them.

I said that I had no instructions whatever on the subject, but that Count Schouvaloff had submitted to your Lordship on the 11th instant the draft of a Protocol, of which you had sent me a copy confidentially; and I presumed that you were under an impression that he had already received a copy of it through the Russian Embassy here.

As this, however, was not the case, in compliance with his wishes I communicated to him confidentially the inclosures in your Lordship's despatch, and on my leaving him he said that I might inform you that he accepted in principle the proposal for the signature of a Protocol, but that until the text of the draft, which might be finally agreed upon by your Lordship and Count Schouvaloff had been communicated to him, it would be impossible for him to say more.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 324.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23.)

(No 249. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 20, 1877.*

BEFORE receiving your Lordship's despatch No. 66 of the 9th instant, marked "Very Confidential," relative to Count Andrassy's dissatisfaction with the publication in the Blue Book of my despatches reporting conversations with his Excellency, he had already spoken to me of the observations which he had addressed to your Lordship on the subject through Count Beust, and had stated that he could not concur in the opinion which you had expressed in reply to them.

On my giving him the explanations of the matter contained in your despatch, he said the proofs of all the papers communicated to your Lordship by the Austrian Embassy had not been sent to Count Beust for revision;* but what he most strongly objects to is that his language in confidential conversations with a foreign Agent should be made public.

He said that when confidential relations do not exist between Governments nothing is likely to be said between their Agents which it would be inconvenient to publish, but he considers the case to be entirely different when a Minister for Foreign Affairs is in the habit of holding confidential conversations with the Agent of a Government to which he wishes to communicate his opinions frankly and without reserve.

He would not object, he said, to reports respecting his opinions and policy being published, but that words and expressions which he may have used, or been supposed to use, in the course of a confidential conversation, should be made public without his consent, is what he cannot consider justifiable.

His susceptibility on this point may be unreasonable. There is, however, much in my published despatches which, under common circumstances, I would have suggested might have been omitted in the Blue Book; but I felt on the present occasion the importance, even at the risk of displeasing Count Andrassy, of suppressing nothing which, as your Lordship observes, might be essential to prevent an erroneous impression being formed of the policy pursued by Her Majesty's Government, and the reasons which led to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 325.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23.)

(No. 250.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 20, 1877.*

ALTHOUGH it may now be hoped that peace will be preserved, I think it right to acquaint you, that I have received information from a source on which entire reliance may be placed, that the Russian Government have ordered at the Wiener Neustadt Locomotive Works, twenty-four sets of engine and tender wheels, with changeable gauge, to enable Russian engines to work on the Roumanian lines.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 326.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23.)

(No. 21.)
My Lord, *Scutari, March 13, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch I have this day addressed to Mr. Jocelyn, reporting the release of the Mohammedans held prisoners by the Mirdites, and the opening of the high-roads passing through their district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

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* Every communicated paper was sent.—T.

Inclosure in No. 326.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Jocelyn.

Scutari, March 13, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 7th instant, I have the honour to report that the Turkish authorities have informed me that Zeinel Bey and his companion have been released by Prenk Bib Doda, and that they have arrived in Scutari, and that the roads are no longer considered blockaded, although the snow that has fallen during the last few days has really rendered them impassable.

I am also assured that the Chief Marco Gion Nozza is now in his own village of Dibre.

My colleagues and the native Christians here are still of opinion that the Mirdites and other mountaineers will not settle down until the Turkish Government recognizes their right to be governed by Christian authorities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W KIRBY GREEN.

No. 327.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 185.)

Constantinople, March 14, 1877.

My Lord,

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs gave me, a few days ago, the Report which has been drawn up by Ismail Bey, who was President of the Commission sent to investigate the conduct of Shefket Pasha at Slimnia and Boyadjik, in repressing the rising which took place in that district last year.

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of it, and also one of a memorandum which Mr. Baring made, at my request, upon the statements which it contains, and which sufficiently demonstrates the futile nature of the vindication of the Pasha's conduct sought to be established by Ismail Bey.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 327.

Report of Special Commission on Attack on Boyadjik by Shefket Pasha.

(Traduction.)

CHARGES par la Sublime Porte de vérifier les sentences rendues par les Commissions Extraordinaires instituées à Philippopoli, à Sofia, et dans d'autres parties du vilayet, au sujet des affaires Bulgares, de l'informer de la nature et de la portée des faits qui ont motivé ces jugements, et de procéder aussi à l'examen de tous les procès-verbaux et interrogatoires qui sont restés jusqu'ici sans exécution, nous avons commencé notre œuvre par l'étude du dossier de la Commission d'Enquête envoyée dernièrement à Sélimno.

Voici le résultat de nos travaux :—

Un grand nombre d'affiliés des Comités formés en vue de fomenter la révolte contre le Gouvernement Impérial s'étant rendus à Sélimno s'y livraient à toutes sortes de menées séditieuses avec une multitude de gens sans aveu dont ils s'étaient assuré le concours. Informées de ces faits, les autorités Impériales envoyèrent sur les lieux, au commencement du mois de Mai, Ali Agha, chef de peloton, accompagné d'un nombre suffisant de gendarmes à l'effet de disperser les agitateurs, et de prévenir les dangers qui menaçaient les sujets paisibles de Sa Majesté.

Arrivés à Seuyudli-Déré, localité sise dans la région occidentale de Sélimno, ces gendarmes furent traîtreusement attaqués par les rebelles. Une balle partie des rangs de ces derniers vint frapper et tuer Ali Agha. Les miliciens qui l'accompagnaient ripostèrent à la décharge des insurgés, qui prirent aussitôt la fuite. La présence des rebelles dans les Balcans s'étant ainsi révélée, l'autorité a dû prendre les mesures commandées par les circonstances et expédier sur les lieux des détachements de force armée. Sur ces entrefaites, plusieurs insurgés Bulgares se rendirent le 8 Mai à Niké, un des villages situés au nord de Sélimno, pour soulever de vive force la population et

augmenter ainsi leur nombre; ils leur enlevèrent des armes avec violence et se firent donner une certaine quantité de fromage, ainsi que le constate le reçu délivré à cet effet au nom du Comité par le Voïvo de Stodile, un des bergers, Kara Katchak.

A la nouvelle de ces désordres, les autorités envoyèrent à la poursuite des révoltés deux bataillons de rédifs du 2me ban se trouvant à Sélimno avec 120 gendarmes et volontaires. Ces troupes ayant rencontré les rebelles entre Niké et Papas, un combat s'ensuivit. Un des soldats fut blessé, mais les insurgés ne pouvant résister au feu et à l'attaque des troupes Impériales s'enfuirent vers les Balcans où, poursuivis de près, ils furent complètement battus. Le Voïvode Stévil et dix de ses compagnons tombèrent morts entre les mains de nos soldats, en même temps que 59 autres furent faits prisonniers. Ceux-ci portaient un drapeau de satin vert représentant d'un côté un lion brodé d'or et de soie, et de l'autre une croix blanche entourée de la devise "mort ou liberté."

Ces prisonniers furent conduits à Sélimno, où ils subirent leur interrogatoire. Ils avouèrent que le Vendredi, 7 Mai, ils se réunirent au nombre de 28, dans les Balcans de Kouche, où ils levèrent l'étendard de la révolte; qu'ils se rendirent ensuite à Niké, où leur porte-drapeau Serf Costa Oghlou Stéphan, tué depuis, planta leur bannière sur l'église du village; qu'ils y firent venir des prêtres afin d'y célébrer un service divin pour le succès de leurs armes; que là Déli Radé, habitant de Niké, se joignit à eux; qu'ils grossirent plus tard à Tebryan leurs rangs de 25 hommes et à Bache de 16; qu'ainsi leur nombre total se trouva porté à 70; qu'ils se firent livrer, contre reçu, par les Kara Katchaks, au nom du Gouvernement Provisoire, des armes et du fromage, et qu'ils se dirigeaient de nouveau sur Niké dans le but de forcer ceux des villageois qu'ils avaient soulevés de force et qui s'étaient enfuis à rentrer dans leurs rangs, lorsque les troupes Impériales les rencontrèrent et les capturèrent après un combat d'une demi-heure. Ils déclarèrent, en outre, que pendant leur assemblée à Couch-Bikar, c'est le nommé Stolon qui avait tiré un coup de fusil sur le chef de peloton Ali Agha, et que le nommé Christo de Chomala avait de son côté tué un meunier Musulman d'Osman Pazar qui n'était pas armé.

A peine ces insurgés avaient-ils été dispersés, que les habitants Bulgares du village de Boyadjik, de concert avec certains autres de leur coreligionnaires qu'ils avaient attirés des localités avoisinantes, tous armés, se déclarèrent dans la nuit du 15 Mai en état de rébellion. Ils ne laissèrent pénétrer personne dans leur village, et ne permirent à aucun Musulman d'en sortir.

Ce village étant situé à une distance de six heures de Sélimno et de trois heures de Yamboli, le Gouverneur de Sélimno, afin d'accélérer l'ouverture de l'enquête, télégraphia au Caïmacam de Yamboli de se rendre en personne sur les lieux et de s'y livrer à des investigations rigoureuses. Ce Caïmacam s'étant par conséquent dirigé sur Boyadjik avec trois gendarmes et huit cavaliers de l'armée irrégulière, et ayant rencontré devant le village environ 300 individus armés et 50 cavaliers, n'y pénétra pas et dépêcha deux ou trois gendarmes pour appeler auprès de lui le Mukhtar et les membres du Conseil des Anciens. A cent pas du village, ces émissaires furent interpellés par les cris, "Ne venez pas, vous serez tués."

Ne pouvant pénétrer jusqu'au milieu du rassemblement, les gendarmes durent s'arrêter à mi-chemin et annoncer de loin que le Caïmacam appelait auprès de lui le Mukhtar et les membres du Conseil des Anciens. Le Mukhtar et l'un de ces derniers se détachant alors du milieu de l'attroupement s'avancèrent de quelques pas et, sur leur demande, le Caïmacam s'étant rendu lui-même auprès d'eux, leur donna communication des ordres de l'autorité et leur fit entendre qu'il était venu pour leur défense et leur sécurité.

Il lui a été répondu que les villageois sauraient se défendre eux-mêmes et l'on s'opposa à son entrée dans le village; il n'est même pas parvenu à pénétrer dans le quartier habité par les Musulmans.

Le nombre considérable des rebelles faisait supposer qu'ils avaient reçu des renforts des villages voisins. Le Caïmacam s'est empressé de porter tous ces événements à la connaissance du Mutessarif qui, à son tour, en a avisé Chevket Pacha, alors à Sélimno.

A la réception de cette nouvelle, Chevket Pacha s'est incontinent transporté à Boyadjik et a réprimé l'insurrection.

Pendant l'affaire 130 maisons ont brûlé et, sur une population de 460 âmes, 135 personnes ont été tuées ou ont disparu; de même une femme a été tuée par l'hasard. Cette correction infligée aux rebelles a exercé une influence décisive et salutaire sur la masse des insurgés des villages d'Eski et de Yéni-Zaghra, dont on avait déjà signalé la concentration à Beche Tépé, et qui se sont empressés de livrer leurs armes à Izzet Bey,

Colonel des dragons, pour se disperser ensuite ; c'est encore à l'impression produite par cette répression qu'est dû le revirement subit qui s'est opéré dans l'attitude des autres villages du district. Tels sont les faits qui ont été constatés soit par le Rapport du Conseil d'Administration et de la Court d'Appel de Sélimno, soit par les documents qui ont été présentés par la Commission d'Enquête.

Passons maintenant à l'examen des trois chefs d'accusation portés contre Chevket Pacha dans le Rapport de Mr. Baring, Secrétaire de l'Ambassade Britannique à Constantinople, qui avait été chargé par son Gouvernement d'une mission spéciale à Philippopoli.

Voici en quoi consistent ces accusations :

Il est dit, en premier lieu, dans le Rapport de Mr. Baring, que Chevket Pacha, à son arrivée à Sélimno, a eu le tort de se faire accompagner par des troupes irrégulières, ce qui aurait donné lieu à une échauffourée dans le village, pendant laquelle trois Bulgares auraient trouvé la mort.

Or, l'enquête ouverte sur les lieux mêmes, corroborée par les dépositions et les explications données à cet effet par Haïdar Bey, Mutessarif de Sélimno, par le Métropolitain de l'endroit, ainsi que par Arifi Effendi, par Saïb Agha, Mihilaki Agha, et Rousdjou Agha, tous membres du Conseil d'Administration, a rétabli les faits de la manière suivante :—

L'envoi à Sélimno des têtes coupées de quelques insurgés tués dans les Balcans, et la vue de leur drapeau capturé, avaient déjà produit une grande surexcitation sur les esprits, lorsque le Lundi, 10 Mai, vers 10 heures à la Turque, quelques volontaires natifs de Kassem Baba, qui se trouvaient attablés dans un cabaret du quartier Kadikeuy, se prirent de querelle, et deux d'entre eux furent blessés. Le cabaretier, un certain Zaharin Ghaspodin, pris de terreur à la vue du sang versé, courut, tout en jetant de hauts cris, en prévenir la police. Cet incident, insignifiant en lui-même, suffit pour mettre en émoi toute la population du bourg, qui ne se rendait pas compte au juste de ce qui était survenu. Les Musulmans se rassemblèrent en hâte et se préparèrent à défendre leurs quartiers, les Bulgares affolés fermèrent leurs boutiques et s'enfuirent de tous côtés pour chercher un refuge. Malheureusement, tous ne parvinrent pas à s'échapper à temps, et dans la mêlée qui s'ensuivit les nommés Vodjou et Dimitri Petré Oghlou perdirent la vie, et le nommé Thodori Alumak Oghlou fut blessé.

Cet événement ayant eu lieu en l'absence de Chevket Pacha, il n'y a rien qui puisse lui être imputé. En effet, le Férik ne s'est rendu à Sélimno que le surlendemain, c'est-à-dire, le 12 Mai, et dès son arrivée il fit acte d'une grande prévoyance en dispersant la foule qui s'était rassemblée dans le village pour tirer profit des circonstances. En conséquence l'accusation portée de ce chef par Mr. Baring contre Chevket Pacha se trouve être dénuée de fondement.

D'après le second chef d'accusation, Chevket Pacha, tout en faisant désarmer de force la population Bulgare de Yamboli, aurait livré au pillage des soldats et des Bachi-Bozouks les maisons Bulgares, et les auraient excités à commettre divers autres méfaits.

Pour ce qui regarde cette accusation, voici les faits tels qu'ils résultent des dispositions et des explications fournies à ce sujet par le Caïmacam de Yamboli, ainsi que par le Conseil d'Administration du district, par Hafez Agha, notable Musulman, par Yorghi Agha Caradish Oghlou, et Yorghi Agha Zafer Oghlou, notables Bulgares.

Les rebelles qui se trouvaient réunis dans les montagnes du district de Sélimno avaient commencé à trouver des partisans et des adhérents parmi les paysans des villages circonvoisins. Ainsi, il ne se passait pas de jour sans que quelques Bulgares de Yamboli n'allassent se joindre clandestinement aux bandes d'insurgés et se livrer à toutes sortes d'actes répréhensibles. Ces faits, ajoutés à la nouvelle de l'apparition des révoltés avec des drapeaux dans les défilés de Muran, distants de six heures de Yamboli, donnèrent bientôt lieu à des manifestations et des troubles parmi les habitants du village. Hachim Effendi, Caïmacam de l'endroit, invita alors les notables Bulgares à dénoncer et à livrer à l'autorité les fauteurs qui se trouvaient au sein de leur communauté et à tâcher de rétablir la confiance entre la population Musulmane et la population Chrétienne. Deux boulangers, qu'on disait être les seuls coupables, furent dénoncés. Mais les autorités supérieures n'en constataient pas moins peu de jours après l'affiliation de certains habitants Bulgares de Yamboli avec des bandes d'insurgés. Ces individus furent arrêtés et expédiés au chef-lieu du vilayet. Cependant cette circonstance enleva de plus en plus la confiance de la population Musulmane qui se prépara, dès lors, à garder les environs du village.

Le Caïmacam s'étant donc entendu avec les notables Bulgares du pays, il fut convenu que tous les Bulgares livreraient leurs armes aux autorités. Mais avant que cet engagement fût exécuté, on apprit que les insurgés avaient fait leur apparition dans les vignes sises non loin de la station du chemin de fer. Dès ce moment, il n'a plus été possible de rétablir la confiance dans le village et des troupes furent par conséquent requises du chef-lieu du vilayet. Chevket Pacha se porta alors avec diligence vers Yamboli à la tête d'un bataillon de troupes régulières et prit les dispositions nécessaires en vue d'y ramener l'ordre et la confiance.

A son arrivée, ayant eu connaissance de la mesure arrêtée relativement à la livraison par les Bulgares de leurs armes, il somma ceux-ci de s'exécuter jusqu'à deux heures du lendemain. Non seulement rien n'a été fait dans cet espace de temps et même quelques heures après, mais on a même appris que dans le quartier de Gurgova les magasins venaient de se fermer et qu'un accident y était survenu. Dans de telles circonstances, il aurait été sans doute contraire aux règles de la prudence de tenir les troupes éparpillées. Le Férik les a donc immédiatement rassemblées et s'est mis en état de se renseigner sur les causes du trouble et de prendre ensuite les mesures exigées par le cours des événements. Il s'est transporté à cet effet à Bahdjélik-Arassi, localité sise en dehors du quartier Gurgova ; il y a convoqué les notables Bulgares et était en train de les interpeller lorsqu'on lui a porté la nouvelle que des gens sans aveu appartenant aux miliciens indigènes que l'autorité locale avait recrutés pour la défense du pays, s'étaient rendus de toutes parts dans le quartier sus-indiqué d'y saccager les maisons de la grande rue. Ce désordre a été immédiatement réprimé et les armes des agitateurs ont été livrées au Gouvernement. Pas un seul soldat appartenant aux troupes régulières ne s'est trouvé mêlé dans cette affaire ; de même Chevket Pacha y est resté complètement étranger. Quelques uns des effets enlevés par les malfaiteurs ont été retrouvés et remis par les soins de l'autorité à leurs propriétaires. Il est vrai que Pop Mihal, vicaire du Métropolitain et Andréa Agha, Membre du Conseil, ainsi que d'autres individus, ont prétendu que des soldats et des Bachi-Bozouks avaient participé pour une large part à ce pillage et ont même présenté deux listes contenant l'inventaire des objets volés ; cependant les renseignements fournis par le Dr. Tahmann, sujet Allemand, homme impartial, qui se trouvait sur les lieux en qualité de correspondant, ont confirmé la non participation des troupes dans cette œuvre de destruction dont les seuls coupables ne sont autres que les gens sans aveu susmentionnés. Chefket Pacha ne saurait donc non plus être rendu responsable de ce chef. Ci-joint nous soumettons à votre Altesse avec leurs traductions les inventaires précités, la quantité des effets enlevés nous paraissant tant soit peu exagérée, il appartient aux autorités locales d'en vérifier l'exactitude, de les découvrir et les restituer aux propriétaires légitimes.

Reste le troisième point d'accusation qui se résume ainsi.

A son arrivée au village de Boyadjik, bien que la population eût déjà mis bas les armes, le Férik aurait mis à mort une foule de gens et après le sac du village, vingt-cinq personnes arrêtées par les Bachi-Bozouks avant été amenés devant lui, il les aurait invitées à se tenir par les mains et leur aurait dit, "Allons! échapper vous," et au moment où ils s'en allaient il aurait fait tirer sur eux.

Or, l'enquête ouverte à ce sujet a rétabli les faits sous leur véritable jour, comme votre Altesse le verra ci-après.

La population de Boyadjik, armée sept ou huit jours avant l'attaque du village, avait séquestré par force les domestiques Chrétiens se trouvant au service des Musulmans de l'endroit et gardé les abords du village en posant des sentinelles tout autour. Elle avait ensuite bloqué le quartier habité par les Musulmans qu'elle menaçait et empêchait de sortir de leurs maisons ; en même temps on s'opposait à l'entrée des Musulmans dans le village. Un, entre autres, a été poursuivi avec des armes à feu. Les personnes de passage n'étaient pas mieux traitées. A la vue de ces désordres, les Musulmans dépêchèrent furtivement l'un des leurs, le nommé Redjib Agha, à Sélimno, qui rendit compte au Mutessarif des événements qui se passaient à Boyadjik. Alors, Hachim Effendi, Caïmacam de Yamboli, fut expédié sur les lieux pour s'enquérir des faits qui y étaient survenus. Arrivé devant le village, il en a vu l'entrée interdite. Il a eu beau répéter aux paysans qu'il laisserait pour veiller à leur défense autant de gendarmes qu'ils en auraient besoin, le Mukhtar et deux Bulgares, Membres du Conseil des Anciens, que la population assemblée dans l'intérieur du village avait délégués, ont répondu qu'ils n'avaient pas besoin de défenseurs et qu'ils ne recevraient personne et qu'ils défendre eux-mêmes. Ils ont déclaré, en outre, qu'ils ne permettraient à personne de pénétrer dans le quartier Musulman. Force a donc été au Caïmacam de revenir à Yamboli, d'où il a tout télégraphié au Mutessarif de Sélimno.

Il était 4 heures de la nuit lorsque le Mutessarif prévint, à son tour, Chevket

Pacha, qui se trouvait en ce moment à Sélimno et avait le commandement de la force armée, de ce qui se passait à Boyadjik. Chevket Pacha proposa alors au Mutessarif de l'accompagner au théâtre de la rébellion, mais celui-ci s'y refusa pour différents motifs. Vu la gravité de l'affaire, le Férik se mit sans perdre un seul instant en mouvement avec ses troupes et gagna bientôt Boyadjik. Il y rencontra aussitôt cinq à six Bulgares venus au devant de lui; il les interrogea, leur demanda le but de leur conduite et ce que signifiait la réunion des gens en armes qu'on voyait aux abords du village. Ils répondirent qu'ils n'avaient pas pu se faire écouter par les jeunes gens.

Chevket Pacha, à cette réponse, renvoya les délégués en leur recommandant de faire entendre raison à la jeunesse. Mais à peine les délégués étaient-ils arrivés au milieu du rassemblement populaire, que des coups de feu partirent du côté des Bulgares, ils avaient pour objectif quelques policemens qui s'étaient rendus au quartier Musulman et quelques Bachi-Bozouks qui étaient accourus des villages circonvoisins dans le but de s'enquérir de la situation faite aux Musulmans qu'on disait assiégés chez eux, l'un deux fut tué et deux ou trois furent blessés. En même temps que Chevket Pacha apprenait cette attaque, on commençait du haut du cimetière à tirer également sur les soldats. Alors, et se conformant en cela aux instructions télégraphiques datées du 12 Mai, reçues de Son Excellence le Serdar Ekrem, le Férik riposta au feu des insurgés et dispersa leur attroupement.

Tel est le résultat de l'interrogatoire auquel ont été soumis les Musulmans du village et des dépositions faites par ceux-là mêmes qui ont été au courant de cet événement, et notamment par le nommé Marin Djidjour, qui appartient à un autre village.

Le Mukhtar Ghrosa, un de ceux qui s'étaient opposés à l'entrée de Hachim Effendi dans le village, et que celui-ci a reconnu dans l'interrogatoire dont il a été l'objet, chercha à représenter l'affaire sous un tout autre aspect; il a voulu faire attribuer le mouvement des Bulgares au fait que les troupeaux du village ayant été menacés par la population des villages voisins, on se serait rassemblé, et on aurait placé à cet effet en sentinelle autour du village des gens armés. Il a soutenu que son escorte seule de Bachi-Bozouks était cause qu'on n'avait pas admis le Caïmacam dans le village. Il a ajouté que, voyant Chevket Pacha arriver avec les troupes de ligne, ils s'étaient empressés d'aller à sa rencontre pour le recevoir, mais que le Férik, transporté de colère à la vue de l'attroupement des Bulgares sur la hauteur du cimetière, et supposant qu'ils s'étaient renforcés par des secours venus du dehors, les aurait vertement réprimandés et renvoyés de sa présence, sur quoi il aurait immédiatement donné le signal de l'attaque. Le Mukhtar a également nié que les villageois aient opposé aux assaillants la moindre résistance; que les habitants Musulmans du village aient été l'objet de menaces ou de vexations, et que des passagers aient été arrêtés. A la suite de ces déclarations, on a dû procéder à l'interrogatoire des six Bulgares qui avaient eu, comme nous l'avons dit plus haut, une audience de Chevket Pacha. Ceux d'entre eux qui étaient encore vivants, c'est-à-dire, Dimitri, fils de Philipp, Pétro, fils de Théodore, les tailleurs Deltcho et Mitu, ayant été, en conséquence, interrogés chacun séparément, ils ont tous fait des réponses identiques à celle du Mukhtar. De même ceux pour lesquels on avait entendu dire qu'ils s'étaient rendus également à la rencontre de Chevket Pacha et qui étaient encore vivants, c'est-à-dire, Guerghi Isveltro Oghlou et Guerghi Nico Oghlou, ont confirmé la version avancée par le Mukhtar. Quant à Mihal Isladam Oglou, qui était venu dénoncer lui-même au Gouvernement l'armement des paysans, la détresse des Musulmans, et les mauvais traitements dont ils étaient en butte, les poursuites dont avaient eu à souffrir les gens de passage et la résistance des révoltés à la force armée, le même Mihal revenait le lendemain en compagnie de Mr. Baring, Secrétaire de l'Ambassade Britannique, et infirmait ses dépositions de la veille, en alléguant qu'il les avait faites à l'instigation et sur les instances pressantes d'un certain Ghalib Bey, Musulman indigène, et sous l'influence des boissons alcooliques.

Néanmoins, tous ces individus appartenant au même village se sentaient naturellement solidaires des méfaits commis et des pénalités à encourir; ils étaient donc intéressés à cacher ou à atténuer leurs crimes afin de se faire passer pour des innocents. Aussi, en raison même de l'accord qui existait entre eux, leurs dépositions ne sauraient-elles être admises comme véridiques. A supposer même qu'on en puisse dire autant des récits faits par les Musulmans, reste le témoignage des gens neutres, étrangers au village, ainsi que celui du susdit Marin Djidjour. Or, il en résulte que c'est du côté du village qu'a été entendue la première détonation, que les vingt-cinq personnes dont on impute à tort la mort à Chevket Pacha faisaient partie d'un groupe d'insurgés qui,

traqués dans leur fuite par des Bachi-Bozouks, étaient venues tomber devant les deux détachements qu'on avait laissés sur la place de l'attroupement: qu'alors des coups de feu avaient atteint quelques uns des fuyards, mais qu'en ce moment Chevket Pacha ne s'y trouvait point là puisqu'il était sur la colline du cimetière; ce dont nous avons acquis la certitude soit par les documents qui ont été placés sous nos yeux soit par les explications verbales que nous ont données à ce sujet son Excellence Ismaïl Bey, Président, et son Excellence Djémil Pacha, membre de la Commission.

Dans cet état de choses, il est établi qu'à la suite de l'armement de la population de Boyadjik, et de son refus de recevoir chez elle le Caïmacam de Yamboli, Chevket Pacha, avisé par le Mutessarif que le dit village se trouvait en état d'insurrection, s'y est rendu comme il a été rapporté plus haut.

A son arrivé sur les lieux, et à la vue du rassemblement des gens armés qui se trouvaient au village, et sur la hauteur du cimetière, il a interpellé les six personnes venues à sa rencontre sur le but de ces manifestations, et en a reçu la réponse qu'on n'avait pu faire entendre raison aux jeunes gens devenus maîtres de la situation. Il les a renvoyés alors en leur enjoignant d'exhorter les paysans à livrer leurs armes au Gouvernement. Mais à peine les délégués avaient-ils pénétré au milieu du rassemblement que des coups de fusil partis du village venaient atteindre un Tartar et quelques Bachi-Bozouks.

En même temps que Chevket Pacha recevait cette nouvelle, on commençait à tirer du haut du cimetière; ainsi on répondait par des coups de fusil à l'injonction du Férik de déposer leurs armes. C'est alors que Chevket Pacha a dû agir conformément à ses instructions, et exécuter ce que ses devoirs militaires lui prescrivaient dans une pareille circonstance.

En soumettant à votre Altesse le résultat de notre enquête avec les documents à l'appui, nous laissons à sa haute sagesse le soin d'apprécier ces faits et de prendre, en conséquence, les mesures qu'elle jugera nécessaires.

Inclosure 2 in No. 327.

Memorandum by Mr. Baring on Report of Commission appointed to inquire into Shefket Pasha's conduct.

THE Special Commission appointed by the Porte to inquire into the conduct of Shefket Pasha, in the Sandjak of Slimnia, while suppressing the so-called insurrection in that province, has now published its Report; and though it was not within its province judicially to acquit or condemn Shefket Pasha, it has done its best, as was to be expected from the character of its President, Ismail Bey, thoroughly to vindicate the character of the Pasha, and to clear him from the charges that have been brought against him.

The Report opens with an account of the organization of insurgent bands in the Balkans, who resisted the forces sent against them by the authorities, and actually had the audacity to force some villagers to provide them with a certain quantity of cheese! Now from the opening phrase one would gather that vast numbers of insurgents were congregated together, whereas a little further on we read that the band which spread terror far and wide throughout the province amounted only to 70 men.

The Report further says that two Mussulmans were killed and one wounded. I think, therefore, that so far Ismail Bey has failed most signally in his attempt to prove that the insurrection in the province of Slimnia was at all serious, and that I was justified in stating, as I did in my Report, that it was a very insignificant affair, and that only a few persons of indifferent character belonging to Slimnia took any part in it.

The Report then gives some account of the affair of Boyadjik, of which I will speak later on, and then replies to three separate accusations brought against Shefket Pasha in my Report.

Firstly. I had accused Shefket Pasha of bringing Bashi-Bazouks to Slimnia, and thus causing disturbances in which three Bulgarians lost their lives.

The Report gives an account of how this disturbance took place, and says that two men "who unfortunately were unable to escape" were killed, and one wounded, thus tacitly admitting that the Mussulmans in their fury killed any Christians whom they happened to meet.

Nothing is said of the arrest or punishment of the murderers.

The Report says that Shefket Pasha was not in Slimnia at the time of the occurrence, and that therefore my accusation against him falls to the ground.

I certainly was given to understand when I was at Slimnia that Shefket Pasha was present during this occurrence. Perhaps I was misinformed, but at any rate I still hold him responsible for these disorders, as it was he who called out the Bashi-Bazouks, though the state of the country did not in the least justify the measure.

The second accusation is, that Shefket Pasha, while disarming the people of Yanboli, allowed the troops and Bashi-Bazouks to pillage.

Persons in Yanboli, says the Report, sympathized with the insurgents in the mountains about Slimnia, and not a day passed without Bulgarians going from Yanboli to join the rebel bands, and to commit all sorts of reprehensible acts. The Report, however, does not enlighten us upon what was the nature of these last. Perhaps, however, the requisitioning of the cheese, which seems to have inspired Ismail Bey and his colleagues with such holy horror, is the principal outrage referred to.

Be this as it may, Hachem Effendi, the Kaïmakam of Yanboli, wishing to restore confidence in the town, called upon the Bulgarian notables to give up to the authorities any persons whom they knew to be connected with the revolutionary movement. The Bulgarians disarmed two men, who were arrested; it was soon discovered, however, that other Bulgarians were in communication with the insurgents, and accordingly more arrests were made. It was then decided that the Bulgarians should give up their arms, but before the decision could be carried out, news came that insurgents had appeared near the town. Troops were telegraphed for, and Shefket Pasha arrived, and "took the necessary measures for restoring order and confidence."

The Report does not, however, state what is perfectly well known, viz., that the appearance of insurgents near the town was a false alarm, got up by some timid persons who mistook some men working near the railroad for rebels, and of this fact the Commissioners must have been perfectly well aware when they drew up their Report.

This document goes on to say that Shefket Pasha, when he heard about the surrender of the arms, gave orders that they must be given up by 2 o'clock on the following day, but as we are left in ignorance as to the hour when this order was issued, it is impossible to say whether a reasonable time was given to the people in which to comply with it or not.

While the arms were being collected, a report reached Shefket Pasha that a disturbance was going on in one of the quarters of the town. He immediately went there, and then heard that some Bashi-Bazouks were engaged in plundering. He gave immediate orders for them to be disarmed, and all disturbance ceased. No regular troops took part in this pillaging, though, indeed, the report confesses that Pope Mihal, the representative of the Bishop, and Andrea Agha, a member of the Council, and other witnesses, deposed that soldiers and Bashi-Bazouks plundered alike. Against this evidence, the Report sets off that of Dr. Tahmaun, a German, who had stated that the soldiers had nothing to do with the pillaging; consequently Shefket Pasha cannot be held responsible for the acts of the Bashi-Bazouks.

As I do not see that Ismail Bey has done anything to disprove what I said in my Report respecting Shefket's abominable behaviour at Yanboli, I will not discuss the question any further, but will pass on to the most important point—viz., the destruction of Boyadjik, which is treated of in the early part of the Report, and again at the end, when an attempt is made to refute the charges brought against Shefket Pasha in my Report. It is said that I had accused the Pasha of causing twenty-five men to be shot, who had been brought to him, and to whom he said, "Now, then, be off!" and then ordered the soldiers to fire.

If Ismail Bey, before criticizing my Report, had taken the trouble to make himself acquainted with its contents, he would have discovered that I had never mentioned a word about this story.

It will not be necessary for me to repeat here Ismail Bey's account of how and why Boyadjik was destroyed. It is enough to say that the Report dwells on the importance of the insurrection in that village, on the refusal of the inhabitants to allow the Kaïmakam of Yanboli or any other Mussulman to approach them, and on the resistance offered to the troops of Shefket Pasha.

In the early part of the Report, when the destruction of the village is spoken of, the affair is thus laconically dismissed: "Shefket Pasha went to Boyadjik and suppressed the insurrection."

A little lower down, the chastisement inflicted on the rebels is spoken of as having exercised a salutary influence on the insurgents of other villages, this showing at once that Ismail Bey fully approves Shefket's behaviour.

Not a word is said about the exactions of the Turks of Korfole, nor of the conduct of the Circassians, which obliged the inhabitants of Boyadjik to adopt measures for their own

defence: and, in fact, I am informed on good authority that Ismail Bey refused to hear evidence on these points.

The only real reason why the people of Boyadjik refused to treat with the Kaïmakam of Yanboli were that they had no confidence in his assurances, and that he was accompanied by Bashi-Bazouks.

In the latter part of the Report an account is given of what happened on the arrival of the troops, and the Bulgarians are charged with having first fired on the Bashi-Bazouks, and then on the soldiers themselves.

The only evidence, however, which apparently the Commissioners can bring forward to support their version of the affair is that of one Marin Djidjour; whereas, on the other hand, they are bound to admit that a number of other witnesses told precisely the same story as I told in my Report, and which I gathered not only from Bulgarian, but also from Turkish, sources. These depositions, however, are dismissed as unworthy of credence.

Boyadjik is a village situated in an open plain, without any natural means of defence, and one is inclined to ask whether it is likely that its inhabitants, even supposing they were armed when Shefket arrived, which I deny that they were, would offer resistance to a strong force of regular troops provided with artillery.

If a determined resistance was offered which necessitated the burning of a whole village, surely some soldiers must have been killed or wounded, but the Report only speaks of one Bashi-Bazouk killed, and two or three wounded, before the real attack was made.

Mention is made of the evidence of Sladan Oglou Mihal, who had deposed to the arming of the Bulgarians, &c., but who, "returning the following day with Mr. Baring, Secretary of the British Embassy, contradicted what he had stated the day before."

Now I beg to state that Mihal did not return in my company, for the good reason that I never saw him in my life. It is perfectly true that I lately heard the whole of his story, how he was threatened with death by Ghalib Bey if he refused to bear false witness, and how he subsequently confessed the real truth; but, as I need hardly say, that the evidence was taken months after I was at Slimnia, I am at a loss to conceive on what grounds Ismail Bey asserts that I had any connection with the retractation of this evidence by the witness.

Nothing is said in the Report about the "Soultans" of Foundoukli, in whose possession quantities of stolen cattle were well known to be, and one of whom especially was the sworn friend of Shefket Pasha, I have been now told, on good authority, that when Edib Effendi was at Slimnia he saw documents given by Shefket to the effect that the cattle in the hands of these "Soultans" were on no account to be taken from them.

It is not necessary to discuss further the different points of Ismail Bey's Report, but I will only say that I maintain the whole of what I wrote about the destruction of Boyadjik, and do not consider that he has effectually disproved a single one of my statements.

When he was appointed President of the Commission of Inquiry, it was easy for anybody who knew him at all to foretell the result.

Though professedly a Liberal, he is a political (if not a religious) fanatic, subjection of the Christian to the Mussulman being the one great article of his creed. When he was member of the Special Commission at Philippopolis, he did all in his power to prevent justice being done, and to thwart the Christian members. I feel perfectly convinced that had he remained, Achmet Agha and the other would not even have been condemned. If, therefore, he fought so hard to obtain the acquittal of a few leaders of Bashi-Bazouks, what would he not do to clear a Pasha from charges brought against him by foreigners.

Unfortunately Ismail Bey's Christian colleague, Abro Effendi, was not a man likely to put any check upon his proceedings, as while at Philippopolis this gentleman made it a point of honour to support the Turks in everything they said or did.

One of the bad results of Ismail Bey's Commission has been that Haydar Bey, who was Mutessarif of Slimnia while I was there, has been obliged to resign. One cannot actually say that he has been dismissed, but his position was made so intolerable that he had no alternative but to leave.

This functionary was deservedly popular at Slimnia with all classes, and did his duty well during the troublous times through which his province passed last year, but he possessed the disagreeable quality of speaking the truth at unacceptable times and to unwilling ears, and this habit has now cost him his place.

(Signed) WALTER BARING.

Constantinople, March 11, 1877.

No. 328.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March 23.*)

(No. 190.)

Constantinople, March 14, 1877.

My Lord,

WHILE I was with the Grand Vizier the other day, his Highness placed in my hands a paper, of which the inclosed is a translation, containing a list of those reforms for which the sanction of the Chamber of Deputies was not required, and which, he assured me, were being actively carried into execution.

The Commissions of Control formed, he said, an exception to these. It would be impossible to set them to work in those districts where the insurrection had not yet entirely ceased, such as Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and all would have to await the promulgation of the laws with which they would have to deal.

I have forwarded a copy of this list to Her Majesty's Consuls in the several provinces, and have instructed them to report as to the faithful execution of its provisions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure in No. 328.

Reforms promised by the Porte.

LES réformes promises sont de deux espèces: la première comprend celles qui dépendent de la Chambre des Députés, et la deuxième celles qui peuvent être mises à exécution dès à présent. Voici les réformes qui appartiennent à cette dernière catégorie.

D. Réforme de la gendarmerie.—*R.* Le règlement élaboré à cet effet a été remis au Colonel Baker (Anglais) lequel, après discussion, soumettra par écrit ses observations.

D. Subdivision des Cazas en Nahiés.—*R.* Des circulaires et des instructions ont été transmises dernièrement aux vilayets à cet égard.

D. Formation d'une gendarmerie composée de Chrétiens et de Musulmans.—*R.* Des communications ont été adressées à ce sujet aux vilayets. Dans quelques provinces déjà les Chrétiens sont admis dans la gendarmerie.

D. Admission des élèves Chrétiens dans les écoles.—*R.* Par ordre Impérial ils seron admis dans les écoles militaires et dans l'école administrative. Déjà ils sont reçus au Lycée Impérial et à l'Ecole de Médecine.

D. Prohibition pour l'avenir aux Circassiens de s'établir en Roumélie.—*R.* Il est décidé de ne plus admettre l'établissement en Roumélie des Circassians arrivant par groupes et en grand nombre.

D. Prohibition de se servir désormais de Bashi-Bozouks sans un cas de force majeure.—*R.* Ceci aussi est décidé.

D. Comprendre dans l'amnistie ceux qui ont été condamnés dernièrement à la suite de l'insurrection de Bulgarie.—*R.* On y avisera.

D. Formation d'une Commission pour la Bosnie et l'Herzégovine et de deux autres Commissions, l'une pour le Vilayet du Danube, et l'autre pour celui d'Andrinople. Choix de leurs membres Musulmans et Chrétiens. Nomination de leurs Présidents.—*R.* Il est décidé de former ces Commissions prochainement. La formation de celle pour la Bosnie et l'Herzégovine est subordonnée au rétablissement de l'ordre et de la tranquillité. Quant à la formation de l'autre Commission elle dépend de la promulgation des lois.

D. Remise des arriérés des impôts dus jusqu'au mois de Mars de l'année courante.—*R.* Les districts qui ont souffert à la suite des événements en seront exemptés.

D. Distribution de terrains aux laboureurs en Bosnie et en Herzégovine.—*R.* Des terrains vagues de l'Etat ont été donnés et se donnent encore. Les populations Chrétiennes peuvent acquérir avec leur propre argent des terres là où bon gré leur semble.

D. Liberté de culte.—*R.* Il est décidé d'accorder le libre exercice des cultes, tel qu'il existe depuis l'époque de la conquête.

D. Juridiction exclusive des autorités ecclésiastiques pour les causes spéciales des différentes confessions.—*R.* Il est décidé d'agir dans ce sens suivant ce qui s'est pratiqué de tout temps à cet égard.

En un mot, les propositions contenues dans la Note Andrassy ont été acceptées et seront mises en pratique.

No. 329.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March 23.*)

(No. 191.)

Constantinople, March 14, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 113 of the 1st instant, inclosing copy of a Petition from the Christian inhabitants of Tartar-Bazardjik, denouncing the petition of thanks to the Sultan for the grant of a Constitution.

The case mentioned is not an isolated one, as will be shown by the copies of Mr. Calvert's despatches, which I have the honour to inclose, and which were inadvertently omitted to be sent by the last messenger.

Although the attempt to coerce the inhabitants of Philippopoli did not meet with the same success as that at Bazardjik, it was mainly owing to the action of the Greek priests, whose opposition to the idea of a deputation to bring the address to Constantinople caused it to be forwarded through an official channel, thus depriving it of half its value.

In representing the matter to the Grand Vizier, I begged him to note that the official who had lent himself to such a work of deceit was no less than the Mutessarif, who, I considered, had thereby entirely forfeited the confidence of his Government.

I have been endeavouring to get him removed, and replaced by a Christian, Ikiades Effendi, one of the members of the Commission of Inquiry into the Bulgarian atrocities, whose appointment would, I believe, be regarded with satisfaction by all classes of the population.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 329.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Jocelyn.

Philippopoli, January 15, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that since the promulgation of the Constitution, a formality which was attended with hardly any public display, and has, I may say, produced no impression whatever on the body of the people, a movement has been set on foot by some of the leading Mussulmans of this town to bring about a reconciliation between the Bulgarian Christians and Mussulmans, and also to induce a representative section of the former community to put their signatures to a document expressing contentment with their present condition and gratitude for the liberal institutions indulgently granted to them by the Sultan.

In the former object they have, nominally at least, succeeded. The Bulgarian notables could not openly refuse to forget the past, or reject the hand of friendship held out to them by their Mussulman fellow-subjects. That a real reconciliation should, however, under present circumstances, come to pass is, of course, out of the question.

But the Bulgarian notables have, up to the present, contrived pretexts for delaying to sign the proposed address, rightly fearing that by so doing they would forfeit the sympathy of Europe for their just grievances. The Mussulmans are, however, pressing the matter, and the Bulgarians are likely soon to yield. In all this movement the action of the Turkish authorities does not appear, the essential point being to obtain what may appear as a spontaneous expression of loyalty.

In connection with this subject, an incident has happened which some of my colleagues have thought worthy of official notice. A deputation of women from Batak came here on Saturday last to protest, they said, against any address being signed which might lead the world to believe that their condition calls for no further improvement.

Yesterday a Consular meeting was convoked by my French colleague for the purpose of taking into consideration the protest of these women. The Russian and the French Vice-Consuls were for addressing a collective despatch to our respective Embassies on the subject, but my Austrian and Greek colleagues agreed with me that the matter was not important enough to warrant such a step; that it would be better for each of us to report it separately.

I have every reason to suspect that the demonstration was prompted by persons in Philippopoli, being intended to counteract the effect of the address to which the Bulgarian notables have been called upon to adhere. I believe that my Austrian and Greek

colleagues are of the same opinion. And if this view of the matter be correct, the demonstration is deprived of all significance as an expression of popular feeling. The Bulgarian peasantry feel their wrongs acutely, but are not accustomed to such methods of making themselves heard.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 329.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Jocelyn.

Philippopoli, February 3, 1877.

Sir,

THE unofficial efforts reported in my despatch of the 15th ultimo as having been commenced to induce the non-Mussulman notables of Philippopolis (especially the Bulgarians) to sign an address expressive of contentment and devotion to the Government have fallen through, owing to the stubbornness—not of the Bulgarian community, whose leading members, as I ventured to anticipate, ended in signing the address—but of the Greek primates, who disapproved of the Delegates (three Mussulman Beys) whom the Mussulman community, as having initiated the idea, claimed the right of appointing, to the exclusion of Christian Delegates, for the purpose of conveying the address to Constantinople.

The failure of this movement has caused some bitterness among its promoters, but is not, I am in a position to state, regretted by the minority of liberal-minded Mussulmans in the town, who from the first have deprecated the attempt made to obtain insincere assurances of loyalty from the representatives of a section of the population notoriously and with good reason discontented with its condition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 329.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Jocelyn.

Philippopoli, February 10, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 4th instant, I have the honour to report that the proposed address to the Porte, which fell to the ground owing to the refusal of the Greeks to sign it, has been resuscitated by the exertions of the Mutessarif. The address will probably in a day or two be sent to Constantinople, having been signed to-day by the Greek Bishop, whose lead the notables of the community have been waiting to follow.

The difficulty with regard to the persons to be appointed as bearers of the address has been got over by the abandonment of the plan of sending a deputation to the capital. The document is to be forwarded by the authorities, and thus will lose the unofficial and spontaneous character which, in the minds of its originators, was to have constituted its main value.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 330.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 192.)
Constantinople, March 14, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch which has reached me from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Adrianople with regard to the satisfaction felt at the nomination of a Christian sub-Governor to that vilayet.

In a letter to me of the 11th instant, Mr. Dupuis states, on the other hand, that in the Firman which was read by the new Governor to the notables of the town upon his assuming office no mention whatever was made of the sub-Governor, and that functionary

was not even present on the occasion, the ceremony in question having, perhaps designedly, been performed at an earlier hour than had been originally intended.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure in No. 330.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Mr. Jocelyn.

Adrianople, March 8, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival of his Excellency Ali Pasha, the new Governor-General for this vilayet, accompanied by Ohannes Effendi, the Christian Musteshar, Assistant Governor, and that they have entered upon their respective duties.

These nominations, which, as I learn, give general satisfaction, will carry conviction to every mind, and go far to show that the Ottoman Government is desirous to ameliorate the condition of its Christian subjects in this province, and if only they be retained in their posts the provincial administration must before many months greatly improve under such men.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DUPUIS.

No. 331.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 193. Confidential.)
Constantinople, March 14, 1877.

My Lord,

A FEW days ago the Minister of Police sent privately to inform me that steps were being taken to promote a fresh insurrection among the Bulgarians.

He averred that the Russian Vice-Consul at Philippopolis, M. Geurow, who is now here, was the person charged to carry out this design, and said that he was about to proceed to Bucharest to confer with the Central Slavonic Committee in that city, and so to arrange matters as to ensure the insurrection breaking out at the end of the present month simultaneously with the hostile action of Russia in the northern provinces.

I had my doubts about the correctness of this information, and consequently requested Mr. Calvert to make inquiries and to report to me the result.

He replied by denying that there was the least disposition on the part of the population in his neighbourhood to rise, or that they had even been tampered with by Russian Agents, but he mentioned that the notable Mussulmans of Philippopolis had sent a person, named Hodjazade, to Constantinople to endeavour to prevail upon the Government to pardon Achmet Aghá and his companions, maintaining that they had done their duty as true Mussulmans and had saved the community from extermination, alleging also that there was imminent danger of a fresh insurrection.

As this confirmed my suspicion of the statements made to me by the Minister of Police, I called upon Said Pasha, the Sultan's Aide-de-camp, and requested him to remind His Majesty of the promise he had given me some weeks ago with regard to the execution of the sentences of the Commission.

I am inclined to believe that the Sultan is anxious to comply with the wishes of Her Majesty's Government in this matter, but dreads a possible fanatical outbreak, should the executions take place at Philippopolis, a course which I have hitherto recommended.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

No. 332.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 194. Confidential.)
Constantinople, March 14, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 160 of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith, a copy of the full report which Colonel Baker has made to the Grand Vizier, upon his proposed re-organization of the rural gendarmerie in Turkey.

As I have stated elsewhere, the recent political agitations in this city have brought about the dismissal of the Minister of Police, and, as the person who has been selected to succeed him, is said to be of a fanatical disposition, and not unlikely to be ill disposed towards the innovations which the new system involves, I have thought it well to take measures to secure to Colonel Baker the support of Said Pasha, the Sultan's first Aide-de-camp, who possesses the full confidence of His Majesty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure in No. 392.

Memorandum of Report on the Zaptieh System of the Ottoman Empire.

IN compliance with your Highness's request, I have the honour to forward a report upon the improvement of the existing zaptieh system of the Ottoman Empire.

As the force is large, and the subject is one of much importance, embracing many points of detail, which for their amelioration must depend on the general plan adopted, I only at present lay before your Highness the general basis on which improvement may be founded.

The present zaptieh force comprises 60,888 men, of which number 15,123 are mounted.

It is divided into regiments and squadrons. To each vilayet a regiment is attached; in the case of detached Mutessarifs only a battalion is allotted to them. The force is distributed as follows:—

Europe, Islands, &c.

Constantinople and Banlieu	3,366
Adrianople	2,197
Tourna	5,372
Crete	2,920
Islands of Archipelago	674
Tripoli de Barbaria	770
Bosnia	3,233
Scodra (Scutari)	1,126
Monastir	3,115
Salonica	2,056
Janina	1,054

Asia.

Ismir	1,393
Brousa	1,150
Cartamouni	1,024
Ismid	325
Konia	712
Angora	861
Adana	1,007
Sivas	676
Trebizond	986
Erzeroum	2,055
Syria	2,182
Zor	600
Jerusalem	393
Isle de Chypre	362
Haleb	2,110
Diabekir	2,224
Bagdad	7,063
Hedjaz	1,381
Yemen	2,345
Zanie	219
Mobile: Bagdad	406
Mobile: Zor	434
Mobile: Syria	796

The main defects in the present system are as follows:—

1. There is no distinction in the force between police and gendarmerie.

2. No system of inspection exists; this is absolutely necessary in order to secure efficiency in so large a force.

3. No depôts of instruction exist for either officers or men; nor is there any regular system of instruction at the head-quarters of the respective regiments.

4. There is no printed code of regulations compiled and issued to each officer to guide him in the performance of his duties.

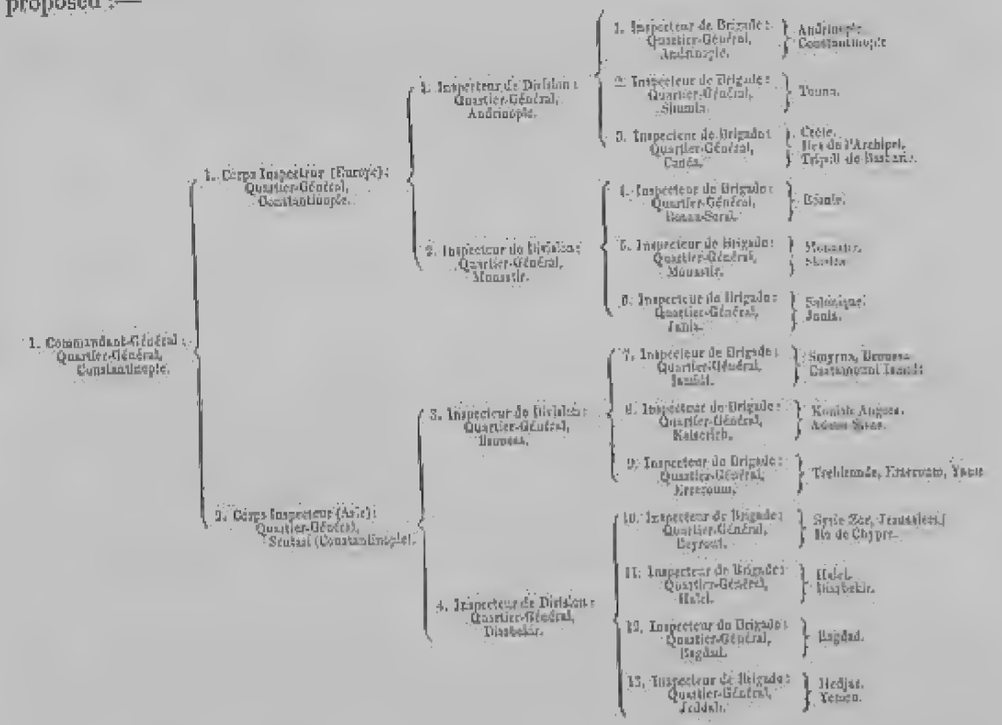
5. No reserve exists by which any vilayet or district can be largely strengthened in case of emergency.

In order to correct these main defects, I have the honour to recommend that the following measures should be adopted:—

1. The force should be divided into police and gendarmerie, the one being organized as a civil, the other more as a military body. Men who have shown an aptitude for the discovery of thefts and robberies should be selected for the police. The police should have charge of the large towns, such as Constantinople, Smyrna, Adrianople, &c. The gendarmerie should supervise the smaller towns, and all the rural districts of the Empire.

2. The absence of any system of inspection over a force of upwards of 60,000 men scattered over the vast extent of the Ottoman Empire, constitutes the great weakness of the present system. It is only by the appointment of a well-trained staff of inspectors that improvements can be discovered and effected. On this point I would suggest to your Highness that the following plan should be adopted.

Gendarmerie.—The existing regiments and squadrons in vilayets, and battalions and squadrons in detached mutessarifs, should be divided into brigades, divisions, and corps for purposes of inspection only, the commands remaining as at present. The forces in Europe and Asia being nearly equal, a corps of inspection should be formed for each, under a central command at Constantinople. The following table shows the arrangement proposed:—



In organizing the gendarmerie force, it is important to consider on what model the existing system should be improved. I know none that equals in efficiency the gendarmerie of Ireland, for there the main difficulties exist which have to be met in the Ottoman Empire. I would therefore suggest to your Highness that the staff of inspectors should first be formed of officers thoroughly conversant with that system. From an intimate friendship with the Commandant of that force, I have the means of selecting through him highly qualified officers for these posts, which means I place entirely at your Highness's disposal.

I would propose to meet the difficulty which must at first attend the employment of foreigners by attaching to each a commissary of zaptiehs having an acquaintance with French or English, and by requiring the foreign officer at the end of six months to pass a preliminary, and at the end of twelve months, a complete examination in Turkish. By first forming such a system of inspection Ottoman officers might be trained to these important duties, and might then replace the foreign element. In the district of Hedjaz-Yemen it would be necessary to at once appoint an Ottoman officer, specially selected.

3. *Instruction.*—A battalion and squadron of instruction should be formed at Constantinople, where officers and selected men should be highly trained as "instructors." These officers and men should then be distributed through all the regiments, battalions, and squadrons of the Empire, to act as instructors in their respective localities. I would suggest to your Highness that in the formation of this battalion one officer of the Irish gendarmerie and six sergeant instructors should be employed until the system was so established that they could be replaced by Ottoman officers.

4. A code of regulations should be framed by a mixed committee formed of specially selected officers of the present gendarmerie, and some officers of the Irish gendarmerie, in order to draw up rules which might be suitable to the force and the customs of the country. This code should be printed, and each officer should be in possession of a copy and acquainted with its provisions.

5. *Reserve.*—It is most important that some reserve should remain centralized at Constantinople and available to be dispatched to any district where disturbances were apprehended. In the absence of this reserve either regular troops, Redifs or Bashi-Bazouks, have to be employed. Of course, these forces are not able to meet these difficulties as they might be met by a highly trained force of gendarmerie. The action of the troops or irregulars excites the attention of foreign Governments, and leads to exaggeration of the disturbances throughout all Europe. I would, therefore, suggest that a regiment of gendarmerie *à pied* and a regiment of gendarmerie *à cheval*, should be formed at Constantinople, ready for immediate service wherever required. This force would not entail additional expense, as it would consist of a small number of men drawn in from each vilayet.

Police.—In the organization of the police force for Constantinople and the large towns I would suggest that one officer and three sergeants, of either the British or French police, should be employed until the force was thoroughly established. As the organization of the gendarmerie is the question which your Highness has confided to me for report I shall not enter further upon the constitution of the police force.

Expense.—The expense of the staff of inspectors and instructors would at first sight appear considerable, but there can be little doubt that the sum expended would be more than saved by the reductions which might be effected through a proper system of inspection. Where no inspection exists it is impossible to believe that some incapable men are not retained in the ranks. Estimating that by getting rid of incapable men 2 per cent. of the present expense might be avoided, it would more than pay for the cost of the staff of inspectors and instructors.

It would be useless to institute a staff of inspectors unless it were composed of highly qualified and carefully selected officers. And foreign officers possessing the necessary qualifications could not be obtained at a low rate of pay. It would be important not only to give the inspectors a fixed salary, but also to make them an allowance per day whilst travelling, and thus to stimulate their constant movement in their respective districts.

The following Table gives the rates of pay and expenditure upon the foreign staff of inspectors and instructors which I consider would be sufficient:—

	Liv.
1 General Commandant, besides pay and appointments as General of Division ..	1,200
2 Corps Inspecteurs, at 1,200 lire	2,400
4 Inspecteurs de Division, at 800 lire	3,200
12 Inspecteurs de Brigade, at 500 lire	6,000
1 Officier Instructeur	600
6 Sergents Instructeurs, at 200 lire	1,200
1 Secretary, at 400 lire	400
Travelling expenses, at 1 lira per day	2,500
	17,500

Such is the general outline of the plan which I would suggest to your Highness. There are many other improvements in detail which will gradually be developed, but if the measures proposed are carried out these will certainly follow. It would, in my opinion, be unadvisable to make extreme changes, the object being to ameliorate and not to upset the present system. Your Highness will perceive that the measures advocated do not interfere in any way with existing commands, but are calculated to stimulate improvement, to reduce expenditure, and to promote a higher degree of instruction throughout the corps.

Should the foregoing proposals be approved I shall be happy to place myself at once in communication with the Commandant of the Irish gendarmerie, and to lay before your Highness the names and testimonials of highly qualified officers and instructors whom he may recommend.

I cannot conclude this Report without expressing my thanks to the Minister of Police for the cordial assistance which he has afforded me in my investigation of the present zaptieh system.

No. 333.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 196.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 15, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 151 of the 1st instant, inclosing lists of the sentences passed by the Special Commissions at Sofia and Philippopolis, I have now the honour to forward, herewith, copy of a nominal list I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Dupuis, of persons sentenced to death by the Adrianople Tribunals for complicity in the Eski-Zaghra revolt, which took place in the autumn of 1875.

I had previously received a telegram from Mr. Dupuis in reply to my inquiries, in which he stated that "Five Bulgarians were hanged last summer in Adrianople, viz., two on 29th May, for Eski-Zaghra Yamboli affair, and three on 10th July for complicity in last insurrection."

Your Lordship will observe, that it appears from the list now inclosed, that five persons were executed at Adrianople for complicity in the Eski-Zaghra affair alone, I have, therefore, instructed Mr. Dupuis to furnish explanations respecting this discrepancy, and also to inform me immediately what sentences were passed at Adrianople on persons implicated in the rising of last year, about which no mention is made in his present report.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure in No. 333.

PRISONERS Tried and Convicted by the Adrianople Tribunals.

Name of Person.	Native Village.	Nature of Offence.	Nature of Sentence.	By what Tribunal Convicted.	Remarks.
Kesmakoundji Kolas ..	Eski Zaghra ..	Complicity in Eski Zaghra revolt ..	Condemned to death ..	Medjliss-i-Divani Temyz, and approved by Imperial Firmân	Executed in Philippopolis.
.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	..	Ditto.
Gueguilin Mihailoski ..	Ditto ..	.. ..	.. ..	..	Executed in Adrianople.
Tribal Giorgi Oglou Stefan	Ditto ..	.. ..	.. ..	..	Ditto.
Shoran Oglou Dimitro ..	Ditto ..	.. ..	.. ..	..	Executed in Philippopolis.
Rali Oglou Kolas ..	Ditto ..	.. ..	.. ..	..	Ditto.
Tatrjeuli Kristo ..	Ditto ..	.. ..	.. ..	..	Ditto.
Ang Ogloni Ilossi ..	Ditto ..	.. ..	.. ..	..	
Hadgi Todor Ogloni Ilia	Schumla ..	.. ..	.. ..	Mekhiemei Fevkiade, Special Commission *ad hoc*	
Zekri Ogloni Vassil ..	Slimnia ..	.. ..	.. ..	..	Executed in different parts of the Vilayet.
Din Ogloni Nicola ..	Genidje ..	.. ..	.. ..	..	
Dimitri Ogloni Mihal ..	Ditto ..	.. ..	.. ..	..	
Nentzoglon Stavri ..	Slimnia ..	.. ..	.. ..	..	
Dermet Ogloni Giorgi ..	Yamboli ..	.. ..	.. ..	..	
Kostid Ogloni Anton ..	Slimnia ..	.. ..	.. ..	..	
Patalengo Andes Ogloni Zozo	Yamboli ..	.. ..	.. ..	..	
Ballegi Ogloni Thomas ..	Ditto ..	.. ..	.. ..	By Mazbata of Mekhiemei Fevkiade	Executed in different villages of the Vilayet.
Kolo Ogloni Giorgi ..	Yeni Zaghra ..	.. ..	.. ..	..	
Veli Ogloni Zakari ..	Schumla ..	.. ..	.. ..	..	
Ibli Petro	Slimnia ..	.. ..	.. ..	..	
Mehtar Nesso ..	Ditto ..	.. ..	.. ..	..	
Gerdan	Ditto ..	.. ..	.. ..	..	
Kuyumdji Dimitri ..	Ditto ..	.. ..	.. ..	..	Executed in Adrianople.
Bakal Dimitri ..	Ditto ..	.. ..	.. ..	Mekhiemei Fevkiade ..	Ditto.
Benayel Patrodergi ..	Tirnovo ..	.. ..	.. ..	..	Ditto.
Hisso Dimitri ..	Tatar Bazardjik ..	.. ..	.. ..	..	
Ilia Todori	Slimnia ..	.. ..	.. ..	..	
Artemas Todori ..	Yamboli ..	.. ..	.. ..	..	
Zakari Vilko ..	Ditto ..	.. ..	.. ..	..	

(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS, *Consul*.

Adrianople, March 13, 1877.

No. 334.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23.)

(No. 197. Confidential.)

Constantinople, March 15, 1877.

My Lord,

EVER since the fall of Midhat, and the appointment of Edhem Pasha as Grand Vizier, the influence of the Palace in the affairs of State has been steadily increasing.

The brother-in-law of the Sultan, Mahmoud Damat Pasha, is the constant companion and counsellor of His Majesty, and the slowness with which the reforms are being introduced, as well as the delay in carrying out the sentences of the Philippopolis Commission, are owing, in great measure, to his representations.

The Grand Vizier, conscientious and laborious though he be, does not feel himself sufficiently strong to offer any serious opposition to this state of things, which, if continued much longer, must, in the opinion of all right-thinking men, be most disastrous to the country.

The Minister of War, Redif Pasha, is maintained in his office solely by the influence of Mahmoud, as he has long been known to be utterly unfit for the post, and the feeling is strong among the general public that should war break out, a struggle with Russia, under such a General, could only result in defeat.

In consequence of this state of things, a movement is being organised in Constantinople to procure the removal of both these Ministers, and, I understand, that those engaged in it, who belong principally to the Softa class, though anxious to avoid bloodshed, if possible, are prepared to resort to extreme measures in the execution of their designs.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

No. 335.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23.)

(No. 198.)

Constantinople, March 15, 1877.

My Lord,

THE peculiar circumstances in which Turkey is now placed have favoured the formation of political factions or parties among the population whose aims are essentially different, but whose attempts to attain them may lead to the occurrence of very serious events.

In the first place there are the adherents of Mahmoud Neddin Pasha, who would wish to see him recalled from exile, and the Russians at the gates of Constantinople.

There is the National party, the followers of Midhat Pasha, who are rather disposed for war than for peace, and favour the execution of the constitutional reforms without European intervention; the preponderance of the Mussulmans being, however, strictly maintained.

There is the fanatical revolutionary party, who desire to have the Constitution abolished, the Sultan dethroned in favour of the son of the late Sovereign, the Christian element subdued by organized massacres in various parts of the Empire, and Europe, as they imagine, deprived of all power of intervention.

These reckless men, who fortunately are not numerous, have lately been suspected of a desire to unite with the Mahmoudists, and your Lordship will recollect that a few months ago, a plot having been discovered against the Palace, some of their chiefs were exiled to islands in the Archipelago.

The Palace party, consisting, as I have already reported elsewhere, of incapable and self-sufficient men, is at present the one in power.

Its leaders appear to be working in the dark, without any definite plan of action, fearful of undertaking anything which might compromise the national exclusiveness to which they hold, and apparently living only for the day.

There is the great party of men who are the lovers of order and of good government, and dreading the consequences of what is now pressing around them, ever ready to rally to any party who might come to power in support of their opinions.

Finally, there is a small party, but one numbering among its ranks the majority of the Christian population, who are weary of promises unfulfilled, and of engagements only made to be broken, whose fervent desire it is to see a European intervention in favour of

a solid and lasting administration, which shall secure to them that equality and justice to which they have hitherto been strangers.

There is no doubt that the present situation is an extremely critical one, and the country, torn asunder by the efforts made in so many different directions under the factions I have named, is drifting to a crisis which cannot long be delayed.

A few weeks may suffice to determine its character, and it is the opinion of all serious politicians here that the part intended to be played by Europe in dealing with this country should, in order to be effective, be at once declared.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

No. 336.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 200.) *Constantinople, March* 15, 1877.

My Lord,

THE Grand Vizier received yesterday a report from Musurus Pasha of the conversation which had taken place between your Lordship and himself with regard to the propositions made by General Ignatiew to the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin.

Your Lordship is represented to have said that, in your opinion, Russia would not be satisfied with their execution, although it might be well that an Ambassador should be sent to St. Petersburgh to treat.

I had asked his Highness some days ago whether he intended complying with the recommendations of the General, mentioning that your Lordship was in favour of an Ambassador being sent.

He then said that he had not thought of doing so, and that, at any rate, until a pacification was arrived at, the step would be useless, but that he would consider the matter.

The receipt of Musurus Pasha's report has, however, somewhat dismayed him, and has strengthened his opinion that concessions to Montenegro, if not likely to avert war, would certainly be a gratuitous sacrifice, as well as a source of internal danger to the Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

No. 337.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 201.) *Constantinople, March* 15, 1877.

My Lord,

THE Montenegrin Delegates arrived here on the 2nd instant, but it was not until the following Monday that I was able to ascertain accurately upon what terms they were authorized to conclude peace.

I stated in my telegram of the 8th that, generally speaking, the demands for a rectification of frontier resembled the cession recommended in the 4th Protocol of the Conference; but, in point of fact, they comprise more territory in one direction, and less in another.

The portion south of the tribe of the Zubci, including, therefore, Sutorina, is not asked for; nor is the district of Kolaschin insisted upon, nor yet the little triangle formed by the River Odalia and the villages of Selisto and Fundina; whereas the islands at the mouth of the Moratcha, which are strongly fortified, and have proved a constant source of annoyance to Montenegro, are demanded.

The Port of Spizza is also proposed, but I have reason to believe not imperatively required.

The plea put forward by the Montenegrins for the large demands they make is one which they have always given under similar circumstances—namely, the extreme poverty of the ground, owing to its rugged and mountainous character, the absence of plains and pastures to enable the people to live by agricultural pursuits, and driving them, in spite of themselves, to prefer war, and its chances of gain by plunder, to peace, which, from their account, is tantamount to starvation and misery.

In addition to the territorial concessions above named, the Prince requires the free

navigation of Lake Scutari and of the River Boyana, with an undertaking on the part of the Porte to dredge the latter to a depth sufficient for his largest craft, pledging himself to supply a certain number of hands to aid the Porte in the work.

The return of the Herzegovinian refugees who have sought an asylum in Montenegro during the insurrection, and whose number the Delegates state to exceed 80,000, is strongly insisted upon.

These demands were sent in to the Porte on the 6th, and two days later Safvet Pasha intimated to the Delegates that they could not be accepted as a basis of negotiations, but added that the Porte would offer a rectification of frontier in three places on the northern frontier, in return for the cession of the north-eastern corner as far as the Tara River down to Kom.

I determined to call upon Moukhtar Pasha, who had been appointed by Safvet Pasha to treat with the Delegates, to ascertain his reasons for so peremptory a refusal of the Prince's demands.

He explained to me with great courtesy that the cession of Nichsich and its neighbourhood, though perhaps desirable as a means of ridding Turkey of a troublesome burden, was not to be thought of, unless the Porte was prepared practically to give up the control over more than one-half of the Herzegovina, which would become virtually annexed to Montenegro.

He stated that, speaking as a military man well acquainted with the country, there existed no adequate line of defence, alone to be called a frontier, nearer the present boundary than the line comprising the fortresses of Trebinje, Gatzko, and Fotcha; that therefore, wherever a Commission might trace a frontier for the Principality further south than it, the marauding and ambitious character of the population would be certain to extend it until checked by the Turkish defences.

He said, moreover, that the plain of Nichsich was at present supporting the wants of 10,000 inhabitants—almost as many as it could supply, and therefore that it was out of the question to suppose that the entire mountain population could derive any benefit from the use of land which was already so fully occupied.

On the southern side, he had refused the cession of the right bank of the Moratcha, because the fortresses of Sputz and the islands at the head of Lake Scutari form the chain of works which guarded Albania, and that the nature of the ground south of the river did not admit of any other line being selected with advantage.

The port of Spizza was, he said, in dangerous proximity to Antivari, and no natural boundary existed between the two places; but he did not appear to consider this point as altogether excluded from discussion.

I left his Excellency with the opinion confirmed, which I had already expressed to your Lordship by telegraph, that his nomination to treat was about to prove an obstacle to the success of the negotiation.

A Council was held at the Porte on the following day to discuss the matter, and I was informed by Safvet Pasha that there was little chance of coming to an understanding as long as the Prince of Montenegro maintained his original pretensions.

On my mentioning that I had been instructed to tender my good offices to endeavour to bring about an arrangement, he said he fully appreciated your Lordship's desire for a pacification, and that he was quite alive to the danger which menaced Turkey should none be arrived at.

He declared, however, that concessions such as those claimed by the Prince would infallibly create so much discontent among the Mussulman population in general, that the Government might be altogether unable to control it.

This morning one of the Delegates informed me that the Porte had yesterday given its final answer, determined by the decision taken at a second Ministerial Council held on the 13th, and that he had transmitted it by telegraph to the Prince, and would await His Highness' instructions.

I fancied that I could detect in his manner that, although much disappointed at so unfavourable a reply, he did not despair of being able to come to an understanding upon another basis; and this appears to agree with the information conveyed to me by your Lordship respecting the moderation which had been recommended to the Prince by the Russian Government.

M. Petrovich, I observed, laid far greater stress than before upon the consent of the Porte to receive the insurgent refugees, and less upon the rectification of territory to be granted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

No. 338.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 202.)
Constantinople, March 16, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for transmission to the War Office, the accompanying letters which I have received from the Military Attaché.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 338.

Colonel Lennox to Mr. Jocelyn.

Constantinople, March 14, 1877.

Sir,

THE negotiations for peace between Turkey and Montenegro do not appear to be progressing satisfactorily, and as it is improbable that the armistice, which will last till the 21st instant, will be again extended, it becomes advisable to consider the situation.

On the 20th November last Constant Pasha (the delegate of Moukhtar Pasha, the General commanding the Turkish army in the Herzegovina) informed the Montenegrin Demarcation Commission that the garrison of Nichsich had provisions enough to last them up to May, 1877, but that the population could not hold out beyond the 1st December, 1876. He stated that Moukhtar Pasha would not admit that Nichsich was blockaded, and said that it was only to avoid a useless shedding of blood, and in anticipation of peace or an armistice, that the General had not prepared to revictual Nichsich, an undertaking that he admitted would necessitate the assembling of twenty-five battalions and 2,000 pack animals at the least, which would require fifteen days.

Constant Pasha, on the first occasion of presenting himself before the Commission, begged that it would, before everything else, take into consideration the question of the revictualling of Nichsich, and on the 24th November he again brought the subject up, owing to its gravity, and stated that Moukhtar Pasha had felt compelled to give orders to the Commandant at Nichsich no longer to prohibit the inhabitants from leaving the town to provision themselves at Gatzko, a proceeding which would lead to conflicts with the Montenegrins.

It may, therefore, probably be taken as correct that the inhabitants of Nichsich had not sufficient food to last much beyond the 1st December, 1876.

The first armistice was for two months, from 1st November, and by the Convention between Nicholas, Prince of Montenegro, and Moukhtar Pasha, agreed to on the 6th December, 1876, the civil population, which was estimated at 3,000 souls, was to be victualled for two months.

The armistice was prolonged for another two months, and arrangements were, it is probable, made for supplies for the same number of persons being passed into Nichsich, but the Turkish authorities have lately complained that the provisions supplied by the Montenegrins to Nichsich have been so bad in quality as to be practically unfit for consumption.

It may, therefore, be assumed that soon after the conclusion of the four months, from 1st December, viz., soon after 1st April, 1877, the 3,000 inhabitants of Nichsich will be without food, though the garrison, which was said to consist of one battalion of regulars and one of local troops, may have enough to last to May, 1877.

It is therefore evident that the first thing the Turks must do, on the failure of the peace negotiations, is to endeavour to revictual this fort of Nichsich. The Turks have recently asked to be allowed to send food into it during the armistice from the Lake of Scutari, by way of Helm and Spotz, which would lead one to suppose that the route viâ the Douga Pass is very difficult. Any way, if Nichsich is not to be surrendered to the Montenegrins, the attempt to throw in provisions must be made at once; it is, of course, possible that the Turks may be already collecting the twenty-five battalions and 2,000 pack animals (stated by Moukhtar Pasha's delegate to be necessary), but judging from the usual customs of the Turks, no steps will probably be taken until after the Montenegrin Delegates have broken off negotiations.

The Turks do not appear to have made a judicious selection of negotiators on their part, viz., Moukhtar Pasha and Constant Pasha, both of whom may be said to be interested parties.

In this country of intrigue people are sure also to say, even if they do not believe it that Moukhtar Pasha, the late General in command along the western frontier of Montenegro, caused the negotiations for peace to fail in order that his successor in command might fail in his attempt to revictual Nichsich.

Probably the attempt will, therefore, be made early next month by Suleyman Pasha, the present Commander-in-chief in Herzegovina, to revictual the place. His force, according to the latest accounts (not very reliable) that I have received, amounts to 42 battalions, inclusive of the 2 battalions blockaded in the Douga Pass and the 2 in Nichsich itself. Suleyman Pasha had his head-quarters at Stolatz, where there were 16 battalions; there were also 5 battalions at Trebinje, 5 at Klek, and 11 battalions and 4 batteries of artillery at Mostar.

From the same not very reliable source it appears that 12 battalions of local troops have recently been formed in that locality; if so, this would make the force under Suleyman Pasha, in Herzegovina and Bosnia, 54 battalions, which agrees with the number obtained from another source.

A great deal of snow is said to have fallen in Montenegro, which will add considerably to the difficulties of Suleyman Pasha's task of collecting his convoy and throwing it into Nichsich.

The operation will, of course, be resisted by the Montenegrins, and hostilities against Montenegro must recommence; and this is a point mentioned by General Ignatiew at the ast meeting of the Conference as one that Russia would consider as a provocation.

I am, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM LENNOX, *Colonel, R.E.*,
Military Attaché.

P.S. *March* 15, 1877.—Since writing this letter I have had a conversation with Mukhtar Pasha. He admitted that, in the present state of the country from snow, &c., it would be utterly impossible to revictual Nichsich through the Douga Pass. He told me that the garrison had supplies to last till June, and that the inhabitants have food enough for six weeks more, or till the end of April

As these statements are different to those he made last November, it is necessary to consider the objects he had in view in giving these contradictory accounts. Last November it is very probable that he made out that the inhabitants were worse off than they really were in order to get the Convention for the revictualment agreed to as quickly as possible, but it is difficult to see why he should have understated the store of provisions for the garrison. Now his wish may be to disguise the fact that the revictualling is a pressing necessity, and thus get the Montenegrins to renew the armistice again, by which means the operation of forcibly revictualling the place may be postponed until the winter is over. The complaint of the bad quality of some of the provisions supplied by the Montenegrins may be for the purpose of getting a further supply in lieu of some of the articles stated to be unfit for consumption.

Weighing the whole case, I am inclined to think that the provisions in Nichsich have very nearly come to an end.

W. L.

Inclosure 2 in No. 338.

Colonel Lennox to Mr. Jocelyn.

Constantinople, March 16, 1877.

Sir,

THE following are the chief events of which I have been able to gain information since writing my letter of the 2nd instant.

The movement of troops from Constantinople towards the Danube has continued; about 140 officers and 6,500 men (probably eight battalions) and two batteries of field artillery.

The greater number of these were *en route* to Varna, but some of the later departures were destined for Kustendjie, and it appears that a battalion was embarked at Varna for Kustendjie on the 9th instant in consequence of a telegram from Constantinople.

From Varna 71 officers and 2,560 men (probably four battalions) have been sent by rail to Schumla, to which place 57,000 kilogs. of ammunition have also been forwarded.

Ammunition to the weight of 216,000 kilogs. has also been sent by rail from Varna to Rustchuk.

The movement of troops from Constantinople by the Adrianople Railway appears to have entirely ceased.

The force about the south-eastern frontier of Montenegro under Dervish Pasha, whose headquarters are at Scutari, still consists of 28 battalions, viz.:—

				Battalions.
IIIrd Corps (Roumelia),	5 Nizam,	6 Redifs	=	11
Vth „ (Syria),	3 „	14 „	=	17
Total				28

There is a good deal of scurvy among the troops, especially at Podgoritza and Spuz; the number of men in hospital on the 22nd ultimo at Scutari was 327, and at Podgoritza 219, and the deaths reported that day were three.

The average strength of Dervish Pasha's battalions may be taken as 580; the Syrian battalions are said to be sufficiently strong, and recruits are not arriving for them, but a considerable number are arriving for the Roumelian corps from Lower Albania.

The total strength under Dervish Pasha on the 22nd ultimo is given as 17,112 men, including 291 men who had arrived in the command, but had not yet joined their corps.

Owing to the attitude of the Mirdites, Dervish Pasha had detached a force of about 4,600 men (probably eight battalions) to Miet, Puka, and Alessio.

In my letter of the 14th instant I have given the Turkish force in the Herzegovina as far as I have been able to ascertain it, and I will in a separate letter give details relative to the army on the Danube.

I am, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM LENNOX, *Colonel, R.E.,*
Military Attaché.

Inclosure 3 in No. 338.

Colonel Lennox to Mr. Jocelyn.

Constantinople, March 16, 1877.

Sir,

IN consequence of the conclusion of peace between Turkey and Servia the troops at Zaitchar have, I am informed, been moved to Widdin.

Thirteen battalions from the neighbourhood of Alexinatz are on the march, under Adil Pasha, viâ Scharkoï (Pivot) and Berkowatz, to Widdin also.

I hope by the next messenger to be able to send a statement showing where each battalion of the Turkish army is, but in the meantime I will give a rough distribution of the force available for the war in Europe.

	Battalions.
About Widin, including Adil Pasha's 13 battalions	78
About Rustchuk	14
About Schumla	25
About Varna	19
About Silistria	24
Dobrudsha, &c.	21
Total north of the Balkans	181
About Sophia, &c.	36
Other places in rear of Balkans	9
Total	226

I have made use of the word "about" Widdin, "about" Rustchuck, &c., to show that the battalions need not be in those towns actually, but in towns and villages near them.

As regards the strength of the battalions, although some of them appear to be down to as few as 590 and 580 men, yet there are others up to 780, and I think that 700 may be taken as an average. This would give a total of about 158,000 infantry. Allowing for cavalry, field artillery, and garrison artillery, the whole force available in Europe cannot well exceed 170,000 men, out of which garrisons for the defence of the fortresses must be taken.

Ahmed Eyoub Pasha commands the Second Army Corps, with head-quarters a

Schumla; but as far as can be ascertained the force is not yet divided into divisions or brigades.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM LENNOX, *Colonel, R.E.,*
Military Attaché.

Inclosure 4 in No. 338.

Colonel Lennox to Mr. Jocelyn.

Constantinople, March 16, 1877.

Sir,

IN continuation of my letter of the 28th ultimo I beg to report that another cargo of rifles, &c., has arrived from Newhaven, United States, in the "J. B. Walker."

I am informed that she brought the following, though I have not seen her manifest:—

Martini-Henry Rifles.

33,400 rifles complete; 4,700,000 cartridge cases, with bullets for them. They are to be filled here.

Snider Rifles.

10,000,000 cartridges, filled.

The steamer "Elf," which arrived from Hamburgh on the 28th ultimo, is reported to have brought 890,243 kilogrammes' weight of shells from Griesons and 125,000 kilogrammes' weight of powder (prismatic).

The steamer "Bonnie Kate," which arrived from Antwerp on the 1st instant, is reported to have brought 40 Krupp guns of 28, 24, and 18 centimètres.

The steamer "Pauline David" arrived from Antwerp on the 9th instant, and is stated to have brought 71 Krupp guns of the following calibres:—2 of 28 centimètres, 1 of 26 centimètres, 3 of 24 centimètres, 5 of 21 centimètres, 33 of 15 centimètres, and 26 of 12 centimètres.

I understand that the wooden corvettes are to be armed with 15-centimètre guns.

On the 8th instant the Turkish frigate "Esseri Djedid" sailed for Sinope with 14 Krupp guns (9 of 15 centimètres and 5 of 21 centimètres) for arming coast batteries.

On the 1st instant the Turkish transport "Babel" left Constantinople for Batoum with 96 field-guns, and a quantity of ammunition and rifles.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM LENNOX, *Colonel, R.E.,*
Military Attaché.

Inclosure 5 in No. 338.

Colonel Lennox to Mr. Jocelyn.

Constantinople, March 16, 1877.

Sir,

I AM not aware whether full particulars relative to the Danube and Black Sea Railway are in possession of the War Department, so I forward the following information I have received.

The total length of the line from Kustendjie on the Black Sea to Tschernawoda on the Danube is 40 miles.

The line is single, and of the ordinary gauge of 4 ft. 8½ inches.

There are two intermediate stations or crossing places, viz., at Moorfatlar, 13 miles from Kustendjie, and at Medjidie (or Medschidie), 24 miles from Kustendjie.

There are no bridges or deep cuttings on the line.

The rolling stock consists of 8 locomotives, 6 wheels coupled; 12 passenger carriages, viz: 1 saloon, 2 first-class, 3 second-class, 1 composite, 2nd and 3rd class, and 5 third-class; 10 break vans; 302 wagons, viz.: 235 grain wagons, 40 goods wagons, and 27 flat (stone or timber) wagons; 5 travelling water tanks; 2 snow ploughs.

The grain wagons have not any doors and are not, therefore, well adapted to the transport of troops, or of any stores except grain which is discharged through small

openings secured by sliding traps. The inside dimensions of these grain wagons are 14 ft. 7 in. by 7 ft. by 4 ft. 1½ in.

The goods wagons measure 12 ft. by 7 ft. by 2 ft. 8 in., and have doors on each side.

The manager says that if he had to transport a large number of troops with their baggage, &c., he would do it in trains of from 35 to 40 vehicles each, running through in 2½ hours, including stoppages.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM LENNOX, *Colonel, R.E.,*
Military Attaché.

Inclosure 6 in No. 338.

Colonel Lennox to Mr. Jocelyn.

Constantinople, March 16, 1877.

Sir,

I HOPE by the next Queen's Messenger to be able to forward a complete list of the Turkish force available for a war against Russia in Asia, but in the meantime send the following particulars:—

The force at Batoum is said to be 32 battalions, but I am somewhat doubtful about this.

But exclusive of the troops at Batoum there are 23 battalions of Nizam, say 500 strong; 22 battalions of Redifs, 1st ban, say 600 strong; 19 battalions of Redifs, 2nd ban, say 700 strong; 25 battalions of Redifs, 3rd ban, say 800 strong, or a total of 89 battalions, or 58,000 men.

The whole of the battalions of the 3rd ban have not yet been marched away from their places of enrolment.

A battalion of the 1st ban of Redifs has been broken up for insubordination and the men distributed among other battalions.

The Government apparently have not felt strong enough to call out some of the regiments of the 2nd ban from the neighbourhood of Van, as it is said the men would probably resist.

One or two battalions were so weak that they had to be incorporated with others.

I am, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM LENNOX, *Colonel, R.E.,*
Military Attaché.

No. 339.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23.)

(No. 4. Political.)

Rustchuk, March 17, 1877.

My Lord,

AN event took place here about three weeks ago between some Turks and some Roumanian frontier guards, which I at once briefly reported to Her Majesty's Embassy, stating that as soon as I learnt the result of a Commission agreed upon between this and Bucharest for the full investigation of the affair, I would report more fully. But as this Commission has not been able to come to any understanding on the subject; and as I see several versions of the affair in the papers, I hasten to transmit to your Lordship herewith inclosed copy of my report to the Embassy.

The Commission proceeded to the spot, inspected the scene of the occurrence, but were unable to come to any understanding, and the Pasha is now waiting the instructions of the Porte.

From what I have heard from disinterested parties here, I am inclined to believe the truth to be that the Roumanians, seeing the Turks on the newly-formed island, belonging as yet to neither party, determined to drive them to their own island, and which the Turks refused to accede to, on which the frontier guards at once fired on them.

The affair, however, has quite cooled down here, and no one appears to give the matter any further attention.

Directly I learn the ultimate settlement of the affair, I will not fail to report to your Lordship, and also to the Embassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure in No. 339.

Consul Reade to Mr. Jocelyn.

Rustchuk, March 2, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to you an occurrence here about a week ago, which at first created much irritation amongst the Turks of this place, but which has at length greatly subsided.

It appears that some Turks were cutting wood on an island of the Danube, belonging to this province, and extended their cutting to an adjacent small island, which has been formed since the division of the Danube was made by the Boundary Commission, when they were attacked and fired upon by a number of Roumanian frontier troops, who, on seeing them, approached in a boat. Two of the Turks were killed, and several, I hear, wounded, one of the latter of whom has since died.

The Roumanians, who were in far greater numbers than the Turks, seized all the latter and conveyed them, together with the two dead men, to Giurgevo.

The Turks of this place, hearing of this, were greatly incensed, but the authorities managed to prevent any collision, and now, I hear, there is a joint Commission at Giurgevo inquiring into the affair.

Directly I hear of the result of the Commission, I will report it to you.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No 340.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23.)

Constantinople, March 22, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

ARMISTICE with Montenegro prolonged till 13th April. Have informed Consul Green.

No. 341.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23.)

Constantinople, March 22, 1877, 11·40 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

MONTENEGRIN Delegates communicated to the Foreign Minister yesterday Prince of Montenegro's final demand for the cession of Kuci and Nichsich.

Porte, however, still refuses and will refer question first to a Ministerial Council and afterwards to the Chambers.

No. 342.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23.)

Vienna, March 23, 1877, 9 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

MONSON reports that Prince Nicholas accepted this morning a proposal received last night by telegraph from the Grand Vizier to prolong the armistice till the 19th of April exclusive.

No. 343.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23, 6·15 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.)

Rome, March 23, 1877, 4·30 P.M.

I HAVE acquainted the Minister for Foreign Affairs confidentially with the substance of your Lordship's conversation with Count Schouvaloff and General Ignatieff. His Excellency strongly condemns the course now pursued by Russia, which confirms his misgivings respecting difficulties raised by Montenegro in peace negotiations. He considers the pretension that Turkey should be first to disarm quite untenable, and your Lordship's language perfectly correct.

No. 344.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Blunt.

(No. 4. Political.)

Foreign Office, March 23, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 12 of this series, dated the 6th instant, and I have to express to you my approval of the suggestion made by you to the Pasha of Salonica for the dispatch of two members of the local Grand Council, a Turk and a Christian, to inquire into and report fully respecting the grievances complained of by the inhabitants of Potzartsko.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 345.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Kirby Green.

(No. 7.)

Foreign Office, March 23, 1877.

Sir,

I APPROVE of your proceedings with reference to the interview which you had with Dervish Pasha and Mustafa Pasha, as reported in your despatch No. 15 of the 3rd instant, relative to Mirdite affairs, and of the language which you employed on that occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 346.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 89.)

Foreign Office, March 23, 1877.

My Lord,

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon, and I communicated to him what I understood to be the view of the Cabinet as to the conditions on which Great Britain should become a party to the Protocol proposed by his Government. I said that it was not our wish to break off the negotiations; that, on the contrary, we were not only willing, but anxious to find a practical solution; but that we could not accept the proposal made to us in the conversation which I had had with his Excellency and General Ignatiew on Wednesday last, according to which demobilisation on the part of Russia was made dependent upon the three conditions of Turkish reform being seriously undertaken, of Turkey taking the initiative in disarmament, and of peace being made between Turkey and Montenegro.

I said nothing on the last of these three points, and not much in regard to the first; but I dwelt on the unfairness—not to say the absurdity—of its being expected that the Porte should begin to disarm while still menaced by an army on the frontier superior to its own.

Count Schouvaloff did not see the matter from this point of view, but spoke in strong terms of the humiliation which would be inflicted on Russia if she were expected to disarm in the face of a powerful Turkish force, prepared at any moment for war. He said that it had been more than once seriously debated at Constantinople whether the Porte would not do wisely in taking the initiative and declaring war without further delay, and

he pointed out the unsatisfactory position in which Russia would be placed should the Porte determine on taking this step after Russian disarmament had begun.

I contended, on the other hand, that there was no question of humiliation involved; that it was as being immeasurably the stronger of the two, and on no other account, that Russia was asked to take the initiative in disarming; and I could not admit as serious the idea that aggression on the part of Turkey was apprehended, when once the acts of the Russian Government had shown that peace was desired.

Count Schouvaloff, however, maintained his point, and said that, however strong might be the desire for peace in Russia, there was not one of the eighty millions of Russians who would not think it disgraceful to disarm in the face of a Turkish force ready to take the field.

I expressed my regret, and inquired whether he thought any solution could be found on the basis of simultaneous disarmament by both States.

His Excellency, in reply, suggested a course of proceeding which, as he said, had occurred to him, but for which he had not the sanction of his Government. If I thought it likely to meet with acceptance here, but not otherwise, he would ascertain the view which would be taken of it at St. Petersburgh.

His plan was as follows:—

That the Protocol should be signed in the first instance; that the Porte, if willing to listen to the advice of the Powers, as given in the said Protocol, namely, that they should disarm, and undertake the work of reform seriously, should send an Ambassador or Envoy of some kind to St. Petersburgh to treat directly with Russia on the question of mutual demobilization. In that case, if Count Schouvaloff's advice was adopted, the Emperor would consent to disarm at the same time as the Porte.

I asked what was to follow in the event of the Porte refusing to take this step. In that case, Count Schouvaloff said, it would be understood that the Protocol should have no effect.

Count Schouvaloff did not ask for an immediate discussion of his suggestion, which I said I would consider, and refer to my colleagues.

In the course of our conversation, which was of some length, Count Schouvaloff asked whether we had taken into consideration a suggestion thrown out by General Ignatiew while here, namely, that all mention of demobilization should be struck out of the Protocol. I answered that I remembered that General Ignatiew had mentioned this among other possible solutions of the difficulty, but I did not understand him to lay any particular stress upon it, and it had not been brought by me before the Cabinet.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 347.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23, at night.)

(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, March 23, 1877, 3·15 P.M.

I HAVE read to the Minister for Foreign Affairs confidentially a memorandum of the substance of your telegram of yesterday explaining the present position of the negotiations with Russia which Count Beust had not reported quite clearly.

His Excellency said that he intends telegraphing to Count Beust to-day; that on the question of disarmament his opinion has never been asked, and he does not, therefore, feel called upon to express one. He has always doubted, however, Russia giving such an assurance as Her Majesty's Government ask for.

With respect to the draft of a Protocol with the text of which he is acquainted with, he could accept it, but he approved of an amendment proposed by Russia by which the Porte's engagements with respect to Bosnia and the Herzegovina would be referred to. He would, therefore, suggest that no reforms should be enumerated, but that an expectation should be expressed in general terms that the Porte would carry out the reforms accepted by its note of February o last year, and also those promised by the Circular of Safvet Pasha.

His object is that the engagement of the Porte respecting the refugees should be maintained, and he said that if his suggestion is not adopted he would be obliged to call on the Porte to reimburse Austria for the sum expended on their maintenance, with which he could assist them to re-establish themselves in their homes, and if the Porte refused, Austria would decline to continue to exercise any control over them.

No. 348.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 24.)

(No. 227.) *Paris, March* 23, 1877.

My Lord,

GENERAL IGNATIEW arrived at Paris last evening, and was, soon after his arrival, visited at his hotel by the Duc Decazes and the Comte de Chaudordy.

He came to see me this morning, and assured me that he felt extremely grateful for the kind reception he had met with in England.

He told me that he should leave Paris this evening for Vienna, and that he expected to be back at St. Petersburgh in eight or ten days.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 349.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 24.)

(No. 228. Most Confidential.) *Paris, March* 23, 1877.

My Lord,

THE Duc Decazes spoke to me this morning of the interview he had last evening with General Ignatiew.

He told me that the General showed no little susceptibility with regard to the state in which he had left the negotiation in England respecting the Protocol.

The General had, the Duc Decazes said, complained of the distrust of Russia which he conceived to have been shown, and had represented that Parliamentary considerations at home had appeared to outweigh altogether regard for the dignity of the Emperor Alexander and for the difficult position in which His Majesty was placed.

The Duke went on to say that he had observed to General Ignatiew that a great diplomatic fault had been committed. Experience had always shown that summonses to disarm were the precursors not of peace but of war. The question of disarmament should never have been brought into the discussion. The Russians were primarily to blame for having mentioned the disarmament of the Turks in their draft Protocol; and for his own part he could not but blame himself for not having pointed this out at the very beginning.

General Ignatiew had replied to this that in fact he had offered before he left England to take upon himself the responsibility of striking all mention of the disarmament of Turkey out of the Protocol.

The Duc Decazes proceeded to address to me some observations upon this reply, and he said that if in fact the question of the disarmament of Turkey were set aside, that of the disarmament of Russia would naturally be set aside also.

I said in the first place that I did not see what inducement there could be to sign the Protocol, unless it were to lead to the demobilization of the Russian army, which must be the first step towards putting an end to the critical and disquieting state in which the Eastern question had been left.

In the second place, I pointed out that the questions of Russian and Turkish disarmament were very far from being identical; for the Turkish armaments were simply defensive, while the Russian armaments were avowedly offensive.

The Duc Decazes said that the inducement to sign the Protocol was the moral obligation it imposed upon Russia not to act alone in the Eastern question.

I said that the Protocol might be looked at from another point of view. It might be regarded as affording Russia, if she chose to attack Turkey, a pretext for saying that she was simply giving effect to the solemnly recorded views of all Europe. There were, I remarked, strong reasons for signing a Protocol to facilitate peace, but it was quite another thing to sign one which would facilitate war.

The Duke maintained that, after the signature of the Protocol, Russia could not have recourse to isolated action; and he said that he himself did not think it unreasonable that Russia should require that her own disarmament should not precede that of Turkey.

He proceeded to tell me that at one moment during his conversation with General Ignatiew the evening before, he had become irritated, and had said that it was not surprising, after all, that some people should fancy that Russia was not really desirous of peace, but was merely seeking to gain time, to fill up first one fortnight and then a second

with apparent negotiations, until the moment came when military movements would be easy.

Upon this General Ignatiew had, the Duke said, assured him in the most positive terms that the Russian Government most anxiously desired peace, and also sincerely desired to demobilize the army as soon as possible.

I observed to the Duke that it seemed to me that the language of the Russians respecting the demobilization had become less, instead of more, positive and distinct as the negotiations had proceeded.

The Duke answered that he would confess that his conversation with General Ignatiew had left a sort of impression upon his mind that something new must have arisen at St. Petersburgh since the General went to England from Paris a week ago.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 350.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 24.)

(No. 229. Very Confidential.) *Paris, March* 23, 1877.

My Lord,

SOON after I got home, after the interview with the Duc Decazes of which I have given an account in my immediately preceding despatch, I received a visit from General Ignatiew.

After expressing in warm terms his gratitude for the kindness and hospitality with which he had been received in England, he proceeded to speak at some length of the state in which he had left the communications respecting the proposed Protocol.

He said that Count Schouvaloff had begun the negotiation badly, that he had made alterations out of his own head in the Protocol; that Prince Gortchakow had supposed that these alterations had been insisted upon by the English Cabinet, and had, consequently, attached undue importance to them, and that this had created some unnecessary difficulties in settling the exact words to be used.

It was not, however, any question about the wording of the Protocol which was the real obstacle to an arrangement. The assurance required by Her Majesty's Government respecting the demobilization of the Russian army, or rather the form in which Her Majesty's Government required that assurance to be given, was the real point at issue.

Now it seemed to him that in England sufficient allowance was not made for the feelings of the Emperor Alexander, nor for the position in which His Majesty was placed.

The Emperor was sincerely anxious for peace, and for this reason, and for many others, desirous of replacing the army as soon as possible on a peace footing. But His Majesty had a keen sense of his own dignity. He had received a military education, and he was extremely sensitive on all matters touching the honour of the army. He could not announce the disarmament as being a matter of bargain with foreign Powers; he could not allow the Russian people to obtain its first knowledge of his intention to disarm from the debates in a foreign Parliament. He could not, therefore, allow an official written promise to disarm to be a condition precedent to the signature of the Protocol. But if that document were placed in His Majesty's hands it would give him the means of disarming with dignity, and of satisfying public opinion, and he would not be slow to avail himself of these means.

It was moreover to be remembered that there were certain formalities to be gone through which must take time, indeed a week at least. The demobilization must be announced in an Imperial Manifesto, and steps to affect it must be taken in regular succession. It was impossible for the Russian Government to run the risk which would attend a premature publication of the Emperor's intention in a foreign country.

For his own part General Ignatiew could not understand the extreme impatience for the demobilization which appeared to be felt in England. Russia and England had the same objects in view, the maintenance, so long as it could be maintained, of the Ottoman Empire, the cessation of the crisis in the East, and the improvement of the condition of the Christian subjects of the Sultan. Now the attainment of all these objects depended upon the influence which could be brought to bear upon the Porte. It was, however, evident that the Porte would be very little disposed to listen to the counsels of Europe, unless it saw serious reason to fear the consequences of disregarding them. England had a

direct and effectual means of exercising a pressure by means of her fleet, and Russia would be only too glad that she should use this means. She was not, however, willing to do so. Why then should she not be glad to take advantage of the presence of the Russian army on the Pruth to impress upon the Porte the prudence of following her counsels? Here was an instrument ready to her hand, which would produce the effect she desired, without entailing upon her responsibility, trouble, or expense.

The General proceeded to speak of the necessity of a disarmament taking place in Turkey, before the demobilization of the Russian army. There was, he said, the greatest danger that the return of the Bashi-Bazouks to their homes would be attended with violence and disorder, not to say with actual massacres. The only effectual check upon these marauders and their superiors would be the visible presence near the frontier of a foreign force ready to act at once, if excesses were committed.

In fact there were dangers on all sides, and perhaps not the least arose from the masses of uncivilized and undisciplined troops which the Porte was collecting on the Asiatic frontier. The Turkish and Russian troops were so near each other on this frontier, that nothing short of the strict discipline of the Russian army had sufficed to prevent a collision. It was essential that these Turkish bands should be withdrawn, if hostilities were to be prevented.

The General besought me to report to your Lordship what he had said, and to entreat you to believe that there could be no doubt that, if the Protocol were signed the Russian army would be demobilized. Was it not, he inquired, evident that the Minister of Finance would never consent to allow this nearly intolerable burthen to weigh upon the Treasury a moment longer than could be helped? He was willing to whisper to you in your ear ("dans le creux de l'oreille") the most positive assurances that the army would be demobilized, but he could not furnish documents to be laid before Parliament. He could not proclaim to the world, and proclaim prematurely, that the Protocol had simply been bought by an engagement to disarm; that in fact the disarmament had been imposed by a foreign Power. What would be the effect of such an announcement upon the Turks? They would undoubtedly believe that England was on their side, and had dictated terms to Russia; and with this persuasion they would become more intractable than ever.

He went on to say that he could not quite understand the Parliamentary difficulties which were stated to exist. For his own part he had endeavoured to place Her Majesty's Government in a position in which they might be proud to appear before Parliament. He had attributed to them all the credit of the settlement, and, with a view to giving them the place of honour, he had himself proposed that the Protocol should be signed in London.

He was afraid that Her Majesty's Government hardly understood the force of public opinion in Russia, or the necessity of considering the personal sentiments of the Emperor. They seemed to him to be scarcely aware that these considerations were as important in dealing with Russia, as any Parliamentary considerations could be in treating affairs in England.

General Ignatiew having begged me to report to your Lordship what he said, I have felt it my duty to do so, although I must be merely repeating what your Lordship has already heard from his own lips.

I observed to him that public opinion in England was very little alive to the prestige which might accrue from small diplomatic honours, such as that of a Protocol's being signed in London rather than elsewhere. I said also that it appeared to me that the whole question was that of the demobilization of the Russian army, that till that was actually accomplished, the crisis in the East, and the uncertainty which was doing so much harm all over Europe, would continue. I begged him also to consider that if the state of feeling in Russia was not fully understood in England, it was no doubt equally true that sufficient allowance was not made in Russia for the much more uncontrollable power of Parliament and public opinion in England. Desirous as I was, above all things, of promoting peace and union, I must, I said, confess to him that I did not see how the Protocol could be signed by Her Majesty's Government, unless the demobilization of the Russian army were to be the certain and immediate consequence.

At last General Ignatiew told me that he had, since he had returned to Paris last night, submitted by telegraph to Prince Gortchakow a form ("une formule") which, if adopted, might satisfy Her Majesty's Government about the demobilization.

The General said that he should set out for Vienna this evening, and that he feared he might meet with some difficulties there. He told me that Count Andrassy had on a former occasion dissented from plans for reforms in Turkey, on the ground that it was undesirable to patch up that Empire in any manner which would prolong its existence.

General Ignatiew concluded by saying that he expected to be at St. Petersburgh in

eight or ten days' time, and that when there he felt confident that he should be able to bring matters to a satisfactory issue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 351.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 24.)

(No. 230. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, March* 23, 1877.

THE Duc Decazes has been to see me since I closed my immediately preceding despatch No. 229 of this date.

He told me that since I had been with him in the morning he had had another interview with General Ignatiew, and had spoken to him of the question of giving assurances that Russia would demobilize. He had, he said, mentioned that he had always understood from me that, while the General's language to me had always implied that Russia would disarm, he had never given me a distinct and positive assurance that she would do so.

General Ignatiew had replied that this was at all events no longer the case, for that he had given me this morning the most unmistakeable assurances on the subject.

The Duke had in consequence come to ask me to tell him confidentially what I had understood from General Ignatiew.

I said that the General had certainly told me in very distinct terms that Russia must and would disarm, and had brought forward several arguments to show that this could not fail to be the case. But he had argued the matter, as a third person might have done, on the probabilities and necessities of the situation. He had never authorized me to convey to Her Majesty's Government a promise that Russia would disarm. On the contrary, he had stated reasons which rendered it, in his opinion, difficult or impossible for Russia to make any engagement of the kind before the signature of the Protocol. He had not gone farther than to say that a promise to disarm might be whispered into the ear, on condition that it was not to be made public.

The Duc Decazes said that the General had spoken to him of giving a formal promise to Her Majesty's Government, on condition that it should remain secret only for a certain fixed time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 352.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 24, 12·3 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 24, 1877, 11·30 A.M.

FOLLOWING received this morning from Consul at Erzeroom, dated 14th instant:—

"175 Redifs on way to Erzeroom stopped at Gelintpatek, Kehlabar, and Hosberick, in district of Bunes, have desecrated church, maltreated priest, beat Christians, outraged women, three violated by about sixty men were left dying. Authorities refuse protection. Villages were deserted, Christians fearing massacre having fled, military authorities here supine, Christians begin to suffer severely, dread opening their shops, acts of oppression and cruelty occur daily.

"I brought the above immediately to the knowledge of Foreign Minister, who begged me to assure your Lordship that no effort shall be spared to discover and punish with all rigour perpetrators. His Excellency telegraphs in this sense to Governor-General of the Province; have given the name of the official commanding the offenders."

No. 353.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 24, 1877, 2·45 P.M.

INFORM Mr. Blunt, Her Majesty's Consul at Salonica, that he is to proceed to Adrianople as soon as possible to act temporarily as Consul there. He will be authorized to charge the journey of himself and family, and house-rent will be allowed him at Adrianople, the amount of which he will report as soon after his arrival as possible.

Instructions will be sent to him at Adrianople.

Inform Mr. Dupuis.

If the services of Mr. Barker, late Acting Consul in Crete, are still available, he may proceed to Salonica and take charge of the Consulate.

No. 354.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 24, 1877, 4 P.M.

HER Majesty's Government see no objection in principle to mention in Protocol of Turkish note of February of last year, and will consider this when the words to be used are formally communicated. At present drafting of Protocol has been suspended pending question of demobilization.

No. 355.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 24, 1877, 4·30 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, respecting outrages reported by Consul at Erzeroom, I approve of your having made representations to the Porte on the subject.

You will strongly urge the prompt punishment of the offenders. The continuance of such acts of fanaticism and cruelty are a disgrace to the Turkish Government, and arouse the just indignation of Europe.

No. 356.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 177.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 24, 1877.

HER Majesty's Consul at Rustchuk has communicated to me a copy of his despatch addressed to you on the 13th instant, and I should wish you to call the attention of the Turkish Government to the statement made by Mr. Consul Reade therein respecting certain Bulgarians implicated in the Servian war, who are now in a state of destitution at Bucharest and other places in Roumania.

You will inquire whether these persons are not at liberty, under the terms of the Treaty with Servia, to return to their homes.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 357.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 90.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, March* 24, 1877.

IN the course of conversation with the Russian Ambassador this afternoon I alluded to the unsatisfactory state of the negotiations between the Porte and Montenegro. I said that the demands of the Prince, upon which I expressed no opinion, seemed still to be much in excess of what the Sultan's Government were prepared to agree to, and I gave it as my opinion, which I believed would be that of my colleagues also, that, though we might still continue the discussion of the form of agreement to be entered into by the Six Powers, it would be better that nothing should be signed till peace between Turkey and Montenegro had been actually concluded.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 358.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 91. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, March* 24, 1877.

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon, and made to me a proposal, which he said was his own, but which he would obtain the permission of his Government to make in their name if I thought it would be favourably viewed by the English Cabinet.

It was agreed between us, as I have stated in my previous despatch, that it would probably be best that nothing should be signed until peace had been concluded between Turkey and Montenegro.

If peace was so concluded, Count Schouvaloff suggested that the Protocol, with such amendments as may be agreed to in the course of discussion, should be at once signed.

Before its signature the Russian Ambassador should make a declaration in the name of his Government, and leave with me a Memorandum, to be used publicly if necessary, to the effect that if the Porte accepts the advice of the Powers, and shows itself ready to replace its forces on a peace footing, and to take in hand seriously the reforms mentioned in the Protocol, the Sultan may send a Special Envoy to St. Petersburgh to treat on the question of disarmament, to which disarmament the Emperor of Russia will also on his side consent.

Count Schouvaloff added a proviso that, if a recommencement of massacres took place similar to those which had occurred in Bulgaria, then the engagement on the part of Russia to demobilize her army would no longer hold good.

I expressed no positive opinion upon the proposal, but said that it seemed to me to be worthy of discussion, and that I would submit it to the consideration of my colleagues.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 359.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 91A.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, March* 24, 1877.

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF read to me to-day a telegram which he had received from his Government stating that according to the reports received at St. Petersburgh the Porte was inclined to prefer a pacific solution of the present difficulty, and was in dread of a rupture. It was believed that the present Turkish Government was not in a sufficiently strong position to carry into effect its intentions; and that if it were to be upset, anarchy and chaos would ensue and would lead to massacres that would render the maintenance of a pacific attitude by Russia impossible.

Count Schouvaloff was instructed to urge this view strongly upon Her Majesty's Government and to point out that the past persistence of Russia with regard to it ought to be taken as a proof of her desire to remove every obstacle to peace.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 360.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 92.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 24, 1877.

IT appears from your Excellency's telegram of yesterday that Count Andrassy had informed you that he could accept the draft of the Protocol, with the text of which he is acquainted, but that he approved of an amendment proposed by Russia, according to which reference would be made to the Porte's engagements respecting Bosnia and the Herzegovina. He had added that he would consequently suggest that no reforms should be enumerated in the Protocol, but that expression should be given in general terms to the expectation that the Porte would carry out the reforms accepted in its note of February, 1876, as well as those promised by Safvet Pasha's recent Circular.

I have to state, in reply to these remarks, that Her Majesty's Government see no objections in principle to the mention in the Protocol of the note to which Count Andrassy refers, and that they will consider the point when the time arrives for the formal communication of the text to be adopted; but that the drafting of the Protocol is at present suspended, pending the settlement of the question of demobilization, which is under discussion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 361.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 94.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 24, 1877.

COUNT BEUST informed me to-day that the Austro-Hungarian Government had no objections to make to the text of the Protocol, taken as a whole; but that, as regards the Russian amendment according to which it would be stated that the Powers would insist upon the reforms to be introduced into Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria to which the Porte had assented but which were yet to be introduced, they supposed that this referred to the reforms which had been demanded in the note of the Vienna Cabinet of the 30th of December, which had been accepted by a Turkish Circular of February 13, 1876. They considered, therefore, that it would be important that mention should be made, in that part of the Protocol, of the Circular in question; as, so long as the provisions which it contained were not carried into effect, the emigrants could not return to their homes.

His Excellency added that his Government concurred in the proposal to omit the enumeration of the reforms, it appearing to them that a reference to the acts by which Turkey had promised to effect these changes would be preferable to a detailed quotation of them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 362.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 24, night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 24, 1877.

MUSURUS PASHA has informed the Porte that your Lordship had told him that, owing to difficulties having arisen with regard to the conditions of the Protocol, its conclusion had been dropped for the present, and that consequently Turkey had better prepare for war and take steps to complete her military preparations.

No. 363.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 16. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, March* 11, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of a further despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople relative to brigandage in the Greek provinces of Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 363.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Jocelyn.

Sir, *Salonica, March* 10, 1877.

TELEGRAPHIC intelligence reached the authorities here this morning that seven Greek robbers of Carabatac's band, whose sudden appearance in Macedonia I reported to you in my despatch of the 19th ultimo, have been captured by the Turkish police in the vicinity of Allassona, and sent under strong escort to Larissa.

Last week the Turkish police in district of Doiran captured three out of a band of six Albanian brigands, who a few days before had waylaid and plundered a caravan proceeding to the fair at Serres. Two Turkish "seimen" or village guards, who had joined the police in pursuit of these brigands, were killed by the latter before the above capture was effected.

It is most desirable that the Porte should direct the authorities in its Greek provinces to deal promptly and with the utmost rigour of the law with the brigands and other criminals, some of them notorious offenders, who have fallen into their power. Scarcely any capital punishments have been witnessed in this vilayet since the execution of some of the murderers of the French and German Consuls; and yet from that time till now, a period of nine months, a great number of murders have been perpetrated; a few only of their authors have been apprehended, while one or two only of these have been executed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 364.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 17. Political. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Salonica, March* 11, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of a despatch which I addressed on the 10th instant to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, transmitting M. Kypriotis' report, of which I also inclose a translated copy, upon an alleged insurrectionary plot in Epirus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 364.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Salonica, March* 10, 1877.

WITH reference to my cyphered telegram of the 3rd instant relative to the suspicion entertained by M. Kypriotis, British Consular Agent at Janina, of the existence of an insurrectionary movement in Epirus, I have the honour to inclose a translated copy of M. Kypriotis' report on the subject marked "private and confidential," which reached me this morning through Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney, at Prevesa.

I have not yet been able to find out if the authorities here have received from Epirus any information confirming the statements contained in M. Kypriotis' report. But it is

a significant fact that the meeting which this gentleman states as having taken place between Aravandinos and Kostalis, and the Captains of Sulli, should have occurred about the same time the bands of Carabatac and other robber chiefs made their appearance in Thessaly and Epirus.

In this connection I should also report that the Ottoman authorities here have strong reasons to suspect that emissaries have been sent to the district of Cassandra, from Greece by a certain Leonidas Bulgaris, to excite the people to revolt.

This man is no relation of the Greek ex-Minister bearing the same name, but the same individual who in April, 1866, landed with a band of fifty Greek "patriots" on the Peninsula of Longos, between Cassandra and Mount Athos, and attempted to incite the inhabitants to rise against their rulers. His object was defeated by the authorities, who succeeded in capturing the whole band with its chief, mainly through the co-operation of the Greek peasantry in that district.

It is now said that this Bulgaris is the organ of a party in Greece who think that the present condition of Turkey affords a good opportunity for creating a rising in her Greek provinces, in the hope that it may eventually lead to their annexation to Greece.

My Greek colleague here, in the course of a conversation I had with him yesterday, referred to the subject, and denied the existence of any such party in Greece. He admitted, however, that Bulgaris, owing to his antecedents, was a dangerous character, whose movements required watching; and told me that he had already reported in this sense to his Government.

I do not know how far the suspicions of the authorities here relative to the presence of emissaries in district of Cassandra are well founded; but the Pasha of Salonica has confidentially instructed the provincial authorities to employ detectives after them; and has also despatched a Turkish sloop of war to cruise in the Gulfs of Salonica and Cassandra.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 364.

M. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Traduction.)
(Particulière et Confidentielle.)

Janina, le 26 Février, 1877.

Monsieur,

J'AI l'honneur de vous faire part qu'il y a environ douze jours que M. Aravandinos et M. Kostalis ont invité dans la maison de ce dernier les Capitaines de Laka de Sulli, et après les avoir mis sous serment leur ont dévoilé ensuite qu'il venait de s'établir une insurrection organisée; et que d'après le projet arrêté et approuvé, le Chimara aurait déployé en premier lieu l'étendard de l'insurrection; que Radowitzi et Tsoumericu auraient suivis; et qu'en dernier lieu, le Laka de Sulli aurait dû prendre aussi les armes si elle (la population) veut dignement porter le nom de Sulliotes; que de l'argent, des munitions, et des armes seraient mis à leur disposition aussitôt qu'ils se déclareraient prêts eux aussi à prendre part dans cette lutte pour la liberté.

Vu l'importance de ces faits je vous les transmets tels qu'ils m'ont été donnés dernièrement—incomplet et peu précis il est vrai.

D'ici au départ du prochain courrier je tacherai d'apprendre: 1. Quels sont les Chefs à Janina de la Société Insurrectionnelle, parce que les individus précités ne doivent être que des instruments; et certainement derrière eux doivent se cacher des personnages plus capables de convaincre et inspirer de la confiance aux Chefs militaires et aux combattants conjurés en général, comme aussi à la direction chargée des fonds; 2. Si tous les Capitaines de Sulli ont été convoqués et ont pris part dans la dite réunion ou bien quelques uns d'entre eux, et lesquels. Il est certain que vers ce temps là, ils étaient tous invités à Janina pour verser leur part du dernier secours (au Gouvernement) qui incombait à leur province. 3. S'ils ont acceptés volontiers les propositions qui leur ont été faites, ou bien se reservant le droit de la reflexion et hésitant, se tiennent toujours indécis; et en dernier lieu je ferai tout ce qui dépend de moi pour me convaincre si tout cela est suscité et entretenu par des Panslavistes en rapport avec les menées désormais bien connues du Consulat Russe; ou bien si c'est un mouvement national Hellénique connu et appuyé par le Gouvernement Grec.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) B. KYPRIOTIS.

No. 365.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 25*, 1877, 1 A.M.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 23rd instant, Grand Vizier informed me yesterday that he has telegraphed to both the civil and military Governors of province to investigate reported outrage, and to punish most severely the perpetrators.

No. 366.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 25*, 1877, 10·20 A.M.

I HAVE executed your instructions respecting the Adrianople Consulate. Mr. Dupuis now absent at the scene of the recent outrage. Under present circumstances it appears very desirable to have an efficient officer at Salonica.

Montenegro Delegates informed me that in to-day's interview Foreign Minister again refused the cession of demanded territory. They will await the arrival of the note from Prince of Montenegro directing them to break off negotiation and to return. This will involve delay of ten days, during which something might still be done.

No. 367.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 25*, 1877.

GENERAL IGNATIEW arrived here to-day and leaves the day after to-morrow for St. Petersburgh. He has just called upon me, and speaks confidently as to a form being found of demobilization which will satisfy Her Majesty's Government without compromising the dignity of Russia, or diminishing the effect on the Porte of the Russian armaments. He says he has convinced Count Andrassy the present wording of the Protocol includes the promises of the Porte respecting refugees.

No. 368.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 25*, 1877.

FOLLOWING is from Monson dated to-day:—

For the Foreign Office.

With reference to my despatch No. 39 of the 11th instant, Prince Nicholas informed me to-day that all the Herzegovina Chiefs and important men, to the number of more than 100, are now in Cettigné, in compliance with his summons. His Highness says that he fears that the Porte does not reflect that the board of the refugees is excessive; that the spring is advancing rapidly, and that, unless they are returned to their homes by the end of April, it will be useless for them to sow their crops for this year's harvest, and the Porte will thus be saddled with the support of an idle population until next year.

The Prince has perfected his arrangements with the Chiefs, and undertakes that if the Porte will agree to his co-operation and accept his moral and material assistance, the refugees shall be reinstated in their homes in thirty days.

His Highness would furnish the means of transport and aid in rebuilding the houses, &c.

He asks Her Majesty's Government to join with Austria in pressing this important matter upon the serious consideration of the Porte.

No. 369.

Consul Skene to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 9. Political.)
My Lord, *Aleppo, February 28, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of my despatch of this day's date, reporting to Mr. Jocelyn the arrival of a new Governor-General, Kiamil Pasha, who is distinguished by the highest possible qualifications for his post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. SKENE.

Inclosure in No. 369.

Consul Skene to Mr. Jocelyn.

Sir, *Aleppo, February 28, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival here of Kiamil Pasha to succeed Emin Pasha as Governor-General of this province.

Emin Pasha has left Aleppo without being much regretted. He was liked by all classes during the first few months of his administration, but, when he committed the error of obtaining the appointment of one of the Ghabri family as Mufti, he was led by that fanatical and corrupt functionary into a line of conduct which estranged from him all popular sympathy and respect, resulting finally in his recall.

Kiamil Pasha became very favourably known here by the able and upright discharge of his duties as Governor of the town of Aleppo six years ago, and his return as Governor-General of the Province of North Syria has been hailed with universal satisfaction. He is too clever to fall into the blunder of his predecessor, and has, moreover, the great advantage over him of a thorough previous knowledge of the local rivalries which make it so difficult for a new-comer to follow an impartial course.

I have not the least hesitation in saying that Kiamil Pasha is the most highly-gifte and fully efficient provincial ruler with whom it has been my lot to become acquainted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. SKENE.

No. 370.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 43. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, March 13, 1877.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, containing Mr. Jocelyn's report of the strategical reasons alleged by Moukhtar Pasha against the compliance by the Porte with the demands of Prince Nicholas, I have no hesitation in saying that as regards the Herzegovina these reasons are utterly fallacious, as every European military man who knows the ground, and the history of the last campaign, will agree. Nichsich is, and always must be, a source of weakness, and not of strength, to the Turks, as I have frequently pointed out in my official reports to your Lordship; and the line Trebigné, Gatzko, Focha, is now, and has always been, the Turkish line of defence.

There is more to be said for the retention of Spuz by the Turks, as that fortress is a point of great strategical importance for the defence of Albania; and part of a system of fortifications to which the Porte is justified in attaching value.

Moukhtar Pasha's false reports of his victories in the Herzegovina make it now incumbent upon him to maintain a fatally erroneous line of argument in the discussions at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 371.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 26.)

(No 44. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, March 13, 1877.*

WITH reference to my preceding despatch, No. 43 of this date, respecting the strategical reasons against the cession to Montenegro of the territory demanded by Prince Nicholas, I have the honour to state that I this day spoke to His Highness on the subject, giving him my opinion as to the difficulty which the Porte would have in consenting to cede the country on the right bank of the Moratcha, and pointing out that even the surrender of Spuz would be putting the key of Albania into his hands.

Prince Nicholas admitted much of the force of this reasoning, and said that he quite understood the tenacity of the Turks with regard to the system of fortifications which they have erected on the Albanian frontier, but which I must own is a constant source of aggravation to Montenegro, some of the works being within musket range of the Principality.

The same strategical considerations, the Prince observed, in no way apply to the retention of Nichsich and the forts in the Douga Pass; and in this respect, as I have already stated, every candid and judicious opinion must agree that His Highness is correct.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 372.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 45. Political. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, March 13, 1877.*

PRINCE NICHOLAS sent to me early this morning to request that I would come to the palace at once.

After some preliminary remarks upon the position of the negotiations at Constantinople, His Highness said that he found himself in a singularly difficult strait. He was the last person in Montenegro to desire a continuation of the war, and he felt that any unnecessary opposition on his part to the conclusion of peace would justify Europe in branding him as a nuisance and a brawler ("brouillon"). On the other hand, the conditions proposed by the Porte were a mere mockery, as I very well knew. He therefore wished to ask me very confidentially to give him my opinion upon the following proposal. He would submit his case to the arbitration of Her Majesty's Government, and abide by their decision. His idea was that he would address your Lordship to the effect that he placed himself frankly and unreservedly in the hands of the Queen's advisers; and would sign a Treaty of Peace on any terms which they considered equitable after receiving from me a report of his views. He wished to know whether I thought that Her Majesty's Government would consent to undertake this responsibility.

I answered that I was utterly unable to give a decided opinion at once upon a proposal for which I was completely unprepared. Was it His Highness' wish that I should submit the question to your Lordship?

The Prince replied that the moment had not come for that; he was asking my personal opinion as to the probability of Her Majesty's Government acceding to his request.

I said that, situated as I was, with a very slight knowledge of what was now passing between the Cabinets of Europe, it was out of the question for me to do more than state to His Highness the considerations *pro* and *con* which suggested themselves to me. The Prince was aware of the value, the necessity in fact, of a complete accord between the Great Powers in the policy to be pursued towards Turkey. I did not know, therefore, how far Her Majesty's Government would regard such isolated action as he proposed, as compatible with their general policy. It might be more feasible that His Highness should request at least the joint action of Austria and England, the two Powers which are now most prominently exerting themselves to bring about peace.

The Prince replied that he did not trust Austria, nor did he wish to be beholden either to her or to Russia. Both of these Powers had done much for him, but for ulterior objects of their own.

England had shown that she had the interests of the Christians of the East at heart' and whatever might be her views about Constantinople she could feel no jealousy of any other Power with regard to Montenegro. Besides, there was no Power in Europe with a reputation for justice and impartiality such as that enjoyed by England.

He knew that he could place himself and his honour with perfect safety in the hands of the Government of the Queen, and that, whatever they might tell him to do, would be consistent with his duty and his fair name. He could not feel the same confidence with regard to any other Power.

To this I said that I could not but be gratified that His Highness recognized so completely the equity and loyalty of conduct which characterised the policy of England, and that I saw that it was unnecessary for me to assure him that in the event of anything coming of his suggestion, his confidence would not be misplaced. But even supposing that Her Majesty's Government entered into his ideas, His Highness must be prepared to find that their decision would be a strictly judicial one; that his case would be considered upon its merits, and not upon sentimental grounds; and that, if His Highness reflected upon the line of policy which had been hitherto pursued by Her Majesty's Government in relation to the various phases of the Eastern question, he would acknowledge that it had been conspicuous for the dispassionate and unsentimental pursuit of an equitable solution of the grave problem presented by the conflict between the desire for precipitate action on one side, and resentment at outside dictation on the other.

It would be premature, however, to canvass the subject further.

On the one hand, I did not understand that His Highness authorized me to take any steps in the matter, and on the other I had no indication of the light in which Her Majesty's Government would regard such a proposition if made to them.

The Prince observed that last year Her Majesty's Government had shown a disposition to act as the medium of an understanding between the Porte and Servia, and it was possible, therefore, that they might not be so reluctant to act for him as I seemed to anticipate. But he repeated that the moment had come for making the experiment, and he was willing to hope that the Porte might yet show itself better advised, and agree to terms, both reasonable in themselves and containing the elements of a durable peace.

He begged me not to make any proposition on his part to your Lordship, and not even to telegraph the purport of our conversation. It might never come to anything, but he wanted me to give to his idea my calm consideration, so that, in the event of his making a formal proposal, I might not be unprepared.

I ended a long conversation by thanking the Prince for the confidence he had reposed in my discretion, and by assuring him that, as far as I am personally concerned, I desire nothing more earnestly than to contribute to the utmost of my power to the re-establishment of peace.

Although I purposely refrained from saying that I should report this conversation confidentially to your Lordship, I have not the slightest doubt that the Prince understood, and meant, that I should do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 373.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 46. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, March 15, 1877.*

I WENT to the Palace this afternoon, and told Prince Nicholas that I had heard from Sir Andrew Buchanan that it appears almost certain that an understanding will be arrived at with Russia for the preservation of peace. While I was with His Highness, he received a telegram from the Italian Agent, who is at Ragusa, to the same effect. M. Durando added that M. Melegari stated that the Porte refuses to cede Nichsich and Spuz to Montenegro; and that as therefore a rupture of the negotiations is to be dreaded, the Italian Government appeals to His Highness' well known moderation and love of peace to make concessions.

From all that has passed between the Prince and myself, I am sure that it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to persuade him to give up his demands for Nichsich on the side of the Herzegovina, and for the district of the Kutchi on that of Albania. His Highness may be brought to relinquish his other pretensions on the side of Albania, if he

gains what he asks for in the Herzegovina. But I think that it would be advisable to wait for a fresh communication from the Montenegrin Delegates, and allow His Highness to make the first concession spontaneously. I venture therefore to recommend that He Majesty's Government should defer for the present instructing me to use pressure, the time for which is not, in my opinion, yet come.

My Austrian colleague agrees with me entirely as to the expediency of this course, and as to the steps we should take together; and after my interview with the Prince this afternoon, we decided upon telegraphing to our respective Governments in the sense of this despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 374.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 47. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, March 16, 1877.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 35 of the 10th instant respecting the transport of stores to Nichsich, I have the honour to inclose copies of telegrams, from the last of which your Lordship will see that the case is very urgent as regards the Kutchi and the refugees, who are in fact reduced to fearful extremities.

I have thought myself justified in pressing Consul Green to urge the Commander-in-chief at Scutari to expedition, as I know the delays which may otherwise be interposed.

The provisions of which the Porte complains as bad were those for which the Turkish authorities themselves are responsible, Prince Nicholas having only undertaken the transport of that which he received for the purpose from the Turkish contractors.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 374.

Sir A. Buchanan to Mr. Monson.

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 13, 1877, 9·30 P.M.*

JOCELYN requests me to inform you that the quality of the provisions supplied to Nichsich by Prince Nicholas has been so bad as to be practically unfit for consumption. The Porte has asked to be allowed to revictual Nichsich itself from Scutari, the food being transported either by Turks or by Montenegrins if the former are objected to. If this were granted, orders would be immediately sent for the acceleration of the transmission of grain to the eastern districts.

Inclosure 2 in No. 374.

Mr. Monson to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Telegraphic.) *Cettigné, March 14, 1877, noon.*

PLEASE telegraph as follows to Jocelyn:—

"Prince Nicholas requests me to state that he readily accepts the proposition of the Porte to allow the revictualling of Nichsich from Scutari to be effected by means of Turks, to whose employment he has no objection whatever, and will do all in his power to facilitate the operation by placing, if the Porte wishes, 200 horses, gratis, as far as Spuz at their disposal, being all the horses available.

"I am telegraphing to Consul Green to concert matters with Vali at Scutari so as to obviate delays and difficulties. Prince desires me to express to you his gratitude for your good offices, and his hope that the Porte will immediately give orders for the transmission of his grain, His Highness being determined on his side to carry out faithfully all the stipulations of his agreement."

Inclosure 3 in No. 374.

Mr. Monson to Consul Kirby Green.

(Telegraphic.) *Cettigné, March* 14, 1877, *noon.*

MR. JOCELYN telegraphs that the Porte proposes to revictual Nichsich itself, by employing Turks to transport the provisions, and that if Prince Nicholas consents orders will also be given to forward immediately from Scutari the grain destined for Montenegro.

Prince Nicholas agrees to allow the Turks to transport the provisions to Nichsich themselves, and has ordered Prefect of Danilograd to communicate with the commandant at Spuz with this object. His Highness will, if the Porte wishes, lend the Turkish authorities at Spuz 200 horses gratis, being all that he has at his disposal. Prince will also, if deemed advisable, send an agent to Scutari to arrange details. Please consult the Vali and acquaint me by telegraph with the result, and as to arrangements for conveying Prince's agent to Scutari.

Inclosure 4 in No. 374.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Monson.

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, March* 14, 1877, 11 P.M.

HAVE seen the Commander-in-chief, who will give me an answer after he has received instructions from Constantinople.

Inclosure 5 in No. 374.

Mr. Monson to Consul Kirby Green.

(Telegraphic.) *Cettigné, March* 15, 1877, 9 P.M.

PRINCE NICHOLAS has received notice that a large number of the Kutchi and refugees are reduced to extremities for want of food. I beg you to exert your influence with the Commander-in-chief for the immediate forwarding of at least a portion of the grain to Riéka, as the necessity is urgent, and there is a complete understanding with the Porte. Please telegraph me when the grain will be despatched to Riéka.

No. 375.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 26.)

(No. 48. Political.)

Cettigné, March 16, 1877.

My Lord,

AFTER the receipt yesterday of your Lordship's telegram of the 14th instant, informing me that the Russian Ambassador had stated that his Government had advised the Prince of Montenegro to act with moderation in his negotiations, I saw his Highness, and said that I hoped that he had sent Prince Gortchakow assurances of his willingness to comply with the counsel he had received.

The Prince's only reply was an inarticulate murmur, which I interpreted as a very reluctant affirmative.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 376.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 26.)

(No. 49. Political. Confidential.)

Cettigné, March 16, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE only time before the departure of the early mail this morning, to inclose a copy of a telegram received at two o'clock during the night by Prince Nicholas, from M. Bojo Petrovich, his delegate at Constantinople.

This telegram contains the propositions made by the Porte yesterday, which, as your Lordship will see, while enlarging the territorial concessions previously offered, do not include the cession of Nichsich, Spuz, or Spitza.

My Austrian colleague and I were summoned at once to the Palace, and after a long discussion with the map before us, the Prince decided on yielding as far as Spuz and Spitza are concerned, and on holding firmly to his demands on the side of the Herzegovina, that is to say, that he insists on having Nichsich. In short, he maintains his claim to the *uti possidetis*, as settled by the "Commission Arbitrale" at Ragusa, last December.

He may make some slight concessions of minor importance, but if the Porte does not give way about Nichsich, his present determination is to order his delegates to leave Constantinople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 376.

M. Petrovich to the Prince of Montenegro.

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* $\frac{8}{15}$ *Mars*, 1877.

AUJOURD'HUI avons obtenu réponse suivante :—

Pour rapatriement, les insurgés auraient amnistie ; quant à l'assistance, devront s'en rapporter simplement à la générosité de la Porte.

Secondement comme rectification de frontière, on donne du côté de Zubzi une partie comprise entre Vucizub et Kousko ; les Baniani presqu'entier ; du côté de Piva, suivant la rivière de ce nom jusque vis-à-vis Bitche, et de là sur point le plus rapproché de Tara, en traversant Bitche. Ensuite frontière suivant Tara jusqu'à Dovolje, de là à Yablonovioreh ; ensuite suivrait ancienne frontière jusqu'à Kolachin, mais ils demandent que de Kolachin la frontière suit la Tara jusqu'à sa source, et de là au Kom.

Libre navigation Boyana accordée, et sont prêts traiter sur mode de vivre suivant bases de votre lettre.

Avons maintenu nos demandes, mais prévoyant que Porte cèderait difficilement autre chose, pensons serait bien mettre tort de son côté en cédant sur certains points.

Ne ferons rien sans ordres que nous attendons au plus vite.

No. 377.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 26.)

(No. 8. Political.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, March* 12, 1877.

IN my despatch of the 6th instant, I had the honour to report the popular meetings which had been held by the Christians throughout the west, and in the centre of Crete, which had for their object the taking of an oath of brotherhood, and which are justly regarded as so many demonstrations against the Government. The temper which prompted them continues to pervade all classes of the Christian community, and renders it a task of great difficulty for the authorities to continue to administer public affairs. The petty Governors in the country districts may be said to have almost abdicated the functions of government, finding themselves unable to carry out any orders obnoxious to the people.

Lawlessness is on the increase, and, were it not for the authority possessed by the Christian Chiefs over their followers, the island would very soon be in a state of anarchy. These Chiefs, however anxious not to alienate public sympathy from their cause by allowing acts of violence to be committed under their eyes, keep the people in check ; and it may be said without exaggeration that they, and not the Ottoman authorities, are at present the ruling power in the rural districts. In spite, however, of their influence, cases of robbery do constantly occur, a flock of thirty sheep having, for example, been carried off from a Mussulman farm close by this town only the other day. On the Albanian zaptiehs being reproached for their supineness in tracing the robbers, they replied that they had no heart in their duty, that they had been left twenty months in arrears of pay, and that when, lately, they had received six months' pay, it was given in paper money which is not current in the shops, and on which a loss of nearly 40 per cent. is incurred. The whole corps is profoundly dissatisfied, not to say disaffected, and it is only force which

keeps them from deserting *en masse*, every application for leave to depart being sternly refused.

With the people ripe for revolution, and the guardians of public order kept from deserting by coercion, the prospects of continued peace in the island are far from encouraging.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 378.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 26.)

(No. 12. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna Serai, March* 14, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch which I have just addressed to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, regarding the report that murders and outrages were on the increase in the north of Bosnia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 378.

Consul Holmes to Mr. Jocelyn.

Sir, *Bosna-Serai, March* 14, 1877.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 13th March, to which I have just briefly replied, regarding the statement that murders and outrages are on the increase in the north of Bosnia, I can only say that I have heard nothing to confirm this, nor, as far as I can learn by inquiry to-day, has anyone else. It is well-known that bands of insurgents, with Despotovich at their head, have passed the whole winter unmolested at Grahovo, in Bihké, and that there are roving bands all along the frontier; also, that the desultory fighting between these bands and the Turks, which has been going on for many months, has long since had the effect of driving away most of the inhabitants, and no doubt murders and other outrages occur on both sides. I have lately been informed on good authority, not Turkish, that twelve Mussulman cattle-dealers of Prijavor and Derbent, returning from Banialuka with the proceeds of their sales, were attacked at Zlatina by a band of insurgents, and eleven of them killed. Probably this will lead to acts of retaliation, and I fully expect, now that peace has been made with Servia and the spring advances, that all the unemployed and needy Slav patriots, aided and encouraged by Slav committees, will find their way into Bosnia and cause a renewal of the brigandage on a large scale, which, ruinous to and deplored by both native Turks and Christians, it has pleased Slav sympathizers to call "insurrection." It is no wonder, then, that with these prospects those Christians who still remain should be anxious to quit the country, and I think that the unavoidable dilemma in which they are placed between their enraged Mussulman neighbours and their filibustering friends from without, has much more effect in determining their action than alleged atrocities on the part of the Turks, which it has become the fashion to take for granted.

A considerable emigration of Christians from the district of Brchka has lately occurred, and the Commandant of Belina has been endeavouring to stop it. A certain Pop Marko, of Zhabor, has also been imprisoned at Svornik for encouraging this emigration, the reason of which is vaguely assigned to be the exactions of the troops and the authorities, but which, I think, may be more fairly attributed to the above-mentioned prospects of an approaching revival of disturbances in Turkish Croatia.

I am at present confined to my room by indisposition, but I intend to take an early opportunity of urging the Vali to take steps at once, if possible, to sweep these bands of brigands under Despotovich out of Bosnia. My Austrian colleague has already urged him to do so, and promised that, if he would indicate the point at which they should be driven across the frontier into Austria, troops should be assembled to disarm and disperse them. I fear, however, that nothing efficient will be done without vigorous action from Constantinople, and I would respectfully suggest that if you would represent to the Porte

the absolute necessity of immediate action, much future expense and bloodshed may be spared.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 379.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 26.)

(No. 13. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna Serai, March* 16, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to call your Lordship's particular attention to the inclosed copy of a letter from the Austrian correspondent of the "Times," which appeared in that paper of March 6. It gives an admirable description of the state of affairs in the north-west of Bosnia, and agrees with all my own information.

In contrast with this statement I will quote and criticise a few extracts from a letter of an occasional correspondent of the "Manchester Guardian," who writes from Knin, on the Dalmatian frontier, to show how incorrectly what passes in Bosnia is represented by Slavophiles, who, from their vicinity and facility for correspondence, ought to be better informed if they desired to be so:—

"The refugees driven forth from Bosnia by deeds of savagery (which, though unreported by English newspapers, almost surpass the horrors of Bulgaria) are dying by tens and hundreds, starved and frozen in the inhospitable gorges of the Dinaric Alps, but they will not return."

This of course means solely in consequence of the atrocities of the Turks, but in sober reality because of the state of affairs truly described by the Austrian correspondent of the "Times":—

"The Bosnian insurgents hold already in their possession mountain strongholds embracing nearly 2,000 square miles, are fairly armed, and, as I believe, capable not only of holding their own without foreign assistance, but of definitely forming a new free State —a Bosnian Montenegro—in the north-west angle of the province."

These so-called insurgents are chiefly the brigands under Despotovich, there being, as is declared most correctly by the "Times'" correspondent, and as is well known, very few, if any, real Bosnian insurgents among them. The manifest exaggeration of this paragraph scarcely requires to be pointed out:—

"Even in Serajevo, the capital of the province, and where, if anywhere, the Osmanli ought to have some control over the native fanatics, the situation is deplorable. I have the authority of a European resident for saying that the whole male Mahommedan population has been armed to the teeth; that the Christian inhabitants of the city are daily insulted, and that gangs of fanatics patrol the streets at night, firing off pistols and defying the authorities."

All this is utterly false, and the "European Resident," in giving this information to the writer to the "Manchester Guardian," must have wilfully deceived him, simply saying what, as a Slavophile, he thought it would be most agreeable to him to hear. It is true that the Mussulmans are armed, but scarcely any one is to be found wearing arms in the town, which is strictly forbidden. Christians are not daily insulted; a few cases may naturally occur, but not to be spoken of, as the writer evidently intends, as an intolerable persecution; and gangs of fanatics do not patrol the streets at night, firing off pistols and defying the authorities. Since I have returned here, and Mr. Freeman assures me that while I was absent, nothing of the kind has ever occurred. The streets at night are undisturbed, and Serajevo is, and has been, throughout these events perfectly quiet and orderly.

The writer gives many other cases of murders by "these ruffians" (the Turks) "from a source on which you may absolutely rely"—probably quite as truthful as that of the "European Resident" at Serajevo.

These cases may or may not be true, though, like everything else said to take place in this land of lies, they would, I imagine, be very difficult to substantiate. Nothing whatever, I may remark, is ever said or written about the murders and outrages committed by the Christian party, which, according to opportunity, have been, I believe, as hideous as those perpetrated by the Mussulmans, but which, as the Turks for the most part have thought it more dignified to revenge than to complain, have had no chroniclers.

I am quite aware that I am represented as a "passionate Turcophile," but I trust that your Lordship and my superiors in general give me credit for speaking the truth to the best of my knowledge and ability, and that being the case I can afford to pass over

the disadvantage under which I labour, in common with the few who have any knowledge of affairs in Bosnia, in having to contend against the great majority of uninformed and prejudiced speakers and writers on the state of affairs in these countries.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 379.

Letter in the "Times" of March 6, from its Austrian Correspondent, dated March 5, 1877.

IN spite of the peace now concluded with Servia, it is very problematic whether things in Bosnia will settle down quite so soon. Although there are proofs that the disturbances there must in a great measure be attributed to Servian agency, yet in the course of events this agency has been almost entirely superseded by that of the Slave Committees. Servia, after she had begun war with Turkey, had more on hand than she could manage, and had little time or means to give to Bosnia. Besides this, by that time it had become tolerably apparent that there was not the least chance of giving to the insurrectionary movement in Bosnia such proportions as to make it into a factor in the issue which Servia had provoked. In the whole country along the Servian frontier, not even the actual crossing of the Servian army could induce the people there to take up arms, so that only in the north-west corner of Bosnia, towards the Austrian frontier, where the insurrectionary movement had begun shortly after the outbreak of the insurrection in Herzegovina, had it maintained itself up to a certain point.

Colonel Despotovics, who had been for some time with the Servian Drina army, was sent there, and claimed a sort of command over a number of small bands, ranging from 50 to 100 men, who had established themselves in the mountains of Kosarac and Germec, both close to the frontier, going and coming, assembling and dispersing again, and confining their activity to raids on the country all round.

The Turks, on their side, went in pursuit of them without plan or device, and thus a sort of desultory warfare ensued, which, though harmless enough so far as the combatants were concerned, has almost depopulated the Kraina, or Turkish Croatia, as that district is called.

What between the Turks and the insurgents, the people were between hammer and anvil—plundered by both sides. Scared and terrified, they have fled across the frontier, where nearly 80,000 of them have now to be maintained. Even since the armistice began several thousands of them have come across.

Of all the many crimes committed since this Eastern complication began, there has been no greater and unscrupulous one than this so-called insurrectionary movement, which is but a brigandage on a large scale, being kept up, not by the people themselves, but for the most part by adventurers from other Slave districts. Unlike the refugees from Herzegovina, among whom scarcely an able-bodied man can be found, all of them being in arms; among the Bosnian refugees able-bodied men are found in the usual proportion with women and children.

In spite of all this, news comes from various sides which shows that an effort will be made to revive the disturbances in Bosnia as soon as the weather allows the activity of all these elements which, having lost their ground in Servia, are beginning to be directed on Bosnia.

The Russian, and other Committees, are collecting money sufficient to organize larger bands, and are engaging the volunteers who have served in the Servian army to go over into Bosnia, where, in consequence of the withdrawal of the regular Turkish troops, the field of action is free. Hitherto, however, these efforts do not seem to have had much result.

No. 380.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 29. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, March 19, 1877.*

WITH reference to my telegram of the 17th instant, announcing the arrival at Belgrade of Pertev Effendi, I have the honour to report that Prince Milan informed me that difficulties had arisen in regard to a disputed island on the Drina, and the saluting of the Turkish flag on the occasion of the Sultan's Firman, of which Pertev Effendi is the bearer, being officially presented.

His Highness stated that for some time back the custom of firing cannons on such occasions had fallen into disuse, and that he had been informed by the Servian Delegate at Constantinople that this ceremony would not be exacted.

As Pertev Effendi has received contrary instructions, the Firman (a copy of which has already been handed to the Servian Government and given satisfaction) cannot be officially presented until these difficulties can be got over.

Pertev Effendi, having referred to his Government, now awaits further instructions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 381.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 30. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, March 19, 1877.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 44 of November the 30th of last year, transmitting a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Salonica, upon the subject of outrages which it is said to have been perpetrated by the Servians in the neighbourhood of Sienitza, and requesting to be furnished with a report thereon, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a communication I have received from the Servian Government on that subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 381.

M. Ristitch to Mr. St. John.

M. le Gérant, *Belgrade, le 1/13 Mars, 1877.*

L'AGENCE et Consulat-Général d'Angleterre m'a fait l'honneur de me communiquer par note du 9 Janvier dernier (n.s.), une lettre d'un médecin Anglais, datée de Siénitza, et rapportant, sur la foi d'un jeune Bosniaque, des faits graves à la charge des troupes Serbes.

Justement ému de cette communication, le Ministre de la Guerre s'est empressé de donner aux autorités militaires l'ordre de faire les recherches les plus sevères pour arriver à la vérité sur les actes imputés à leurs troupes et c'est le résultat de cette enquête dont j'ai l'honneur de vous faire part aujourd'hui.

Il en ressort que les faits imputés aux troupes Serbes ne peuvent être conformes à la vérité, car aucun détachement de l'armée Serbe n'a pénétré dans la région indiquée. Du reste l'enquête n'a pu révéler le moindre indice pouvant mettre sur la trace de ce massacre qui, cependant, n'aurait pu rester ignoré.

Nos troupes ayant toujours accueilli et pris sous leur protection les familles qui fuyaient leurs foyers, le récit du jeune Bosniaque serait déjà par lui-même dépourvu d'invraisemblance. Il est plus que probable que ce jeune homme, se voyant entre les mains des Turcs, aura inventé ce récit pour déguiser la vérité.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) J. RISTITCH.

No. 382.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 16. Political.)
My Lord, *Galatz, March 20, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to report that six more ambulance waggons have arrived here by river, making the number now on the quay twenty.

I yesterday went over the fortifications which are in progress in company with Captain Ainstey, who is passing through on his way to England. One of the smaller

works is now very nearly completed, but the others remain in much the same state as before, and there are no heavy guns here for any of them. The weather lately has impeded work, and a number of men have been allowed to return to their homes, but I was told that work would be resumed shortly and that men might be expected to arrive about the end of this week.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 383.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 120. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March* 18, 1877.

I HAVE been privately informed that the Imperial Minister of Finance has made an arrangement with the Bank of France—probably under the auspices of the French Government—for an advance to the Imperial Government of 20,000,000*l.* sterling in gold on the security of Russian Government paper. The half of this sum is destined to meet the coupons of the Imperial debt payable abroad in gold; the remaining half to replace the 80,000,000 of roubles in gold, which were taken from the Imperial Treasury since the 1st of January, 1876, to keep up the foreign exchanges.

I am told that this advance on the part of the French Bank is the counterpart of a similar financial operation which was effected by the Russian Government in the reign of Louis Philippe, when the Bank of France was in difficulties.

Should this information prove correct, it may be viewed as a very skilful financial operation on the part of Russia, and no less so, politically, on the part of France.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 384.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 122.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March* 21, 1877.

THE unsatisfactory state of the negotiations between the Porte and Montenegro is causing some disquietude to the Imperial Government.

It is feared that, if the negotiations should be broken off, a fresh stimulus will be given to the insurgent elements in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, which may lead to further serious complications.

A renewal of the war between Turkey and Montenegro will seriously endanger the relations between Russia and Turkey. The protectorate of Montenegro by Russia has been traditional, and the personal feelings of the Emperor and Imperial family for that small State and its ruler are of that chivalrous and religious character that will never permit of of a Turkish invasion of Montenegro.

I am informed to-day that at the instance of the Powers, the Prince of Montenegro has given up his demands in regard to Spuz and for a seaport, but that he holds to the acquisition of Nicksich, and the plain surrounding it.

It is also said that the Porte is influenced by a fear of the fanatical party at Constantinople, who have publicly posted up placards threatening the Turkish Ministers with death if they should cede any territory to Montenegro.

As it is not likely that the Prince of Montenegro can be induced to make further concessions, it appears to me that the Porte would act wisely in view of the dangers which a renewal of the war may produce, if it could be induced to give up the small territory in question on condition of the fortress being razed.

It is hoped here that her Majesty's Government will use their influence at Constantinople to impress on the Porte the urgent necessity of concluding peace with Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 385.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 124. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March* 21, 1877.

I HAD the honour to receive by special messenger from Berlin on the 18th instant your Lordship's despatches Nos. 67 and 69 of the 13th instant, and on the 20th instant by post your Lordship's despatch No. 71, Confidential, of the 16th instant, inclosing copies of the draft Protocol proposed by Russia, as also of the amended draft Protocol as settled between your Lordship and the Russian Ambassador, and accepted by his Excellency *ad referendum* for the approval of his Government. I had an interview this morning with Prince Gortchakow, when his Highness informed me of certain slight modifications, not in the substance, but in the wording, of the proposed draft Protocol which he had instructed Count Schouvaloff to propose to your Lordship, and to which he was hourly expecting an answer by telegraph.

These modifications, or rather alterations, of the wording his Highness considered as necessary in order to give more weight to the resolutions of the Powers, and to prove to the Porte that Europe was firmly resolved to maintain the reforms proposed by the Conference for the improvement of the condition of the Christian populations.

The object of the alterations suggested by Prince Gortchakow was, therefore, to use his Highness's own expression, *pour renforcer* the language of the Protocol.

His Highness further remarked that if the Porte accepted the Protocol, and evinced a disposition to put in vigour at once the reforms suggested, and if the Porte concluded peace with Montenegro, and consented to the proposal to reduce its army to a peace footing, the Russian army would be demobilized.

I did not consider it advisable to enter with Prince Gortchakow on the question of the Russian demobilization, as it was a delicate subject, and which could only be treated directly by your Lordship through Count Schouvaloff.

I, therefore, abstained from any observation on this subject, and merely listened in silence to his Highness's observations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 386.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 109. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, March* 23, 1877.

IN obedience to the instruction conveyed to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 99 of the 18th instant, I expressed the thanks of Her Majesty's Government to Prince Bismarck for the friendly support the German Government had given to the modifications suggested by your Lordship in the Russian Protocol respecting Turkish reforms.

Prince Bismarck in reply said that he was happy to support any modifications on either side calculated to keep up the friendly understanding between England and Russia, and that he would gladly sign any Protocol in the interest of peace and better government in Turkey, provided that it had been previously agreed upon and accepted both by England and by Russia.

He confessed that he had hardly anticipated the difficulties thrown in the way of the concessions the Czar was willing to make in the interest of peace, and he had heard with regret from the German Ambassador in London that Her Majesty's Government could only agree to become a party to the Protocol (the last wording of which appeared to him harmless and acceptable) on the condition of receiving a formal assurance in writing from the Russian Government that they will demobilise, a condition which affected the national dignity of Russia, and which would therefore, and for obvious reasons, stand in the way of the Czar's very sincere efforts to avoid war by working out a pacific solution in concert with the Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 387.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 26.)

Belgrade, March 25, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

SERVIAN Foreign Minister informs me that Porte makes difficulties respecting the evacuation of the island on the Drina, which before the war belonged to Servia, and requests the good offices of Her Majesty's Government with the view to urge the Porte not to contravene the *status quo ante*.

No. 388.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

Foreign Office, March 26, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of the 24th instant, contradict emphatically the statement reported by Musurus Pasha to have been made by me.

I never gave any such advice as that attributed to me. Communications respecting the Protocol are still being exchanged.

No. 389.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

Foreign Office, March 26, 1877, 3·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of 25th instant I proposed to send Mr. Barker to act at Salonica during Mr. Blunt's absence.

Report if his services are available, and, if not, whom you would recommend.

No. 390.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

Foreign Office, March 26, 1877, 3·50 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING has been received from Mr. St. John:—

"Servian Foreign Minister informs me that Porte makes difficulties respecting the evacuation of the Island on the Drina which before the war belonged to Servia, and requests the good offices of Her Majesty's Government with the view to urge the Porte not to contravene the *status quo ante*."

You may use your good offices in the matter.

No. 391.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 26, 4·30 P.M.)

Constantinople, March 26, 1877, 12·17 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING received from Vice-Consul Calvert dated yesterday:—

"Disregard any report that may reach you of burning of a Bulgarian village and massacre of inhabitants. It is quite untrue."

No. 392.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

Foreign Office, March 26, 1877, 4·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING received from Monson yesterday:—

"With reference to my despatch No. 39 of the 11th instant, Prince Nicholas informed me to-day that all the Herzegovina Chiefs and important men, to the number of more than 100, are now in Cettigné in compliance with his summons. His Highness says that

he fears that the Porte does not reflect that the board of the refugees is excessive; that the spring is advancing rapidly; and that, unless they are returned to their homes by the end of April, it will be useless for them to sow their crops for this year's harvest, and the Porte will thus be saddled with the support of an idle population until next year. The Prince has perfected his arrangements with the Chiefs, and undertakes that if the Porte will agree to his co-operation and accept his moral and material assistance, the refugees shall be reinstated in their homes in thirty days.

"His Highness would furnish the means of transport, and aid in rebuilding the houses, &c.

"He asks Her Majesty's Government to join with Austria in pressing this important matter upon the serious consideration of the Porte."

I have to instruct you to join with your Austrian colleague in pressing on the Porte the expediency of coming to an arrangement as to the refugees.

No. 393.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. St. John.

Foreign Office, March 26, 1877, 4·40 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday's date, I have instructed Mr. Jocelyn to use his good offices in the matter of the evacuation of the island on the Drina.

No. 394.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 26, 5·30 P.M.)

St. Petersburgh, March 26, 1877, 3 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I SAW Prince Gortchakow this morning. His Highness' language was not encouraging. He said he had used all his influence to further peace negotiations with Montenegro, but the Porte rendered it impossible by treating Montenegro as a vassal.

He stated that Russia could not demobilize till peace was concluded with Montenegro, and spoke with animation of Russia having reached the extreme limit of concession.

Speedy conclusion of peace with Montenegro is of essential importance.

No. 395.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 93.)

Foreign Office, March 26, 1877.

My Lord,

THE Russian Ambassador called to-day and reverted to the subject of the proposed Protocol. I expressed to his Excellency the regret I felt at the unsatisfactory turn which the negotiations between Turkey and Montenegro seemed to have taken. I reminded Count Schouvaloff that we had both agreed as to the inutility of signing any Protocol until the Prince of Montenegro should have accepted terms of peace.

Count Schouvaloff, in reply, said that he could not admit the possibility of Europe allowing itself to be embroiled in war by the differences between Turkey and Montenegro on so comparatively insignificant a question as the cession of Niehsich. He could not doubt that so soon as it was seen that no other obstacle to peace remained the general feeling of the Powers would put an end to this sole remaining cause of difference.

But, in order that that feeling might operate, it would be necessary that other obstacles should be removed in the first instance. The Powers must be made to understand that if once Prince Nicholas and the Sultan came to terms, the Protocol would be signed and peace maintained. He further observed that the form in which, according to his proposal, the consent of the Emperor is to be given to demobilization, leaves it practically in the power of the Porte to fix the day and the hour on which such demobilization should take place, since it would rest with the Porte to decide whether and when a Turkish Envoy should be sent to St. Petersburgh to treat on the subject.

Count Schouvaloff told me that he had telegraphed this last proposal to his Government for approval, and expected a reply to-night or to-morrow.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 396.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Kirby Green.

(No. 8. Political.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 26, 1877.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 19 of the 7th instant respecting the present tendency of Mirdite affairs; and I have to express to you my approval of the advice given by you to the Turkish authorities as to the policy which ought to be pursued by the Porte in this respect.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 397.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 181.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 26, 1877.*

I HAVE received your telegraphic despatch, dated the 24th instant, reporting that Musurus Pasha had informed the Porte that I had stated to him that, in consequence of difficulties having arisen in the negotiations respecting the Protocol, its conclusion had been dropped for the present, and that, in consequence, it would be advisable for Turkey to prepare for war, and to take steps to complete her military preparations.

In reply to this communication, I have instructed you by telegraph to contradict emphatically the statement thus reported by Musurus Pasha to have been made by me. I have never given him any such advice as that attributed to me.

I added that negotiations respecting the Protocol were still in progress.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 398.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 184.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 26, 1877.*

I RECEIVED telegraphic information from the Acting British Consul-General at Belgrade, dated the 25th instant, to the effect that difficulties were raised by the Porte with regard to the evacuation of the island on the Drina, which had before the commencement of the war formed part of Servian territory; and that under these circumstances the Servian Foreign Minister was desirous of obtaining the good offices of Her Majesty's Government in urging the Porte not to contravene the *status quo ante*.

I repeated this information to you by telegraph this day, and instructed you to use your good offices in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 399.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 186.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 26, 1877.*

PRINCE NICHOLAS informed Mr. Monson yesterday that all the Chiefs and leading men of the Herzegovina, upwards of one hundred in number, were then in Cettinge in compliance with the summons which he had issued. His Highness stated that he feared the Porte did not take into consideration that the expense of maintaining the

refugees was excessive; that the spring was rapidly approaching; and that unless these refugees were sent back to their homes by the end of April they would be unable to sow their crops for this year's harvest, and that the Turkish Government would thus become burdened with the support of an idle population during the whole of this year. His Highness said that he had now made complete and satisfactory arrangements with the Chiefs, and would undertake that, if the Porte would agree to his co-operation, and would accept his moral and material assistance, the refugees should be reinstated in their homes within thirty days, for which purpose he would himself provide means of transport and would aid in rebuilding houses and other necessary matters.

Under these circumstances the Prince said that he was anxious for Her Majesty's Government to join with that of Austro-Hungary in pressing this important matter upon the serious attention of the Porte.

Upon the receipt of this information, which Mr. Monson communicated to me by telegraph, I instructed you by telegraph to take steps in conjunction with your Austrian colleague for pressing on the Porte the expediency of coming to a decision, and making suitable arrangements with regard to the refugees.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 400.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 50. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, March 17, 1877.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 49 of yesterday, inclosing copy of a telegram addressed by the Montenegrin Delegates to Prince Nicholas respecting the further propositions of the Porte, I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of the telegram which His Highness despatched yesterday afternoon.

Your Lordship will observe that the Prince declares that he will never send back the refugees now on Montenegrin soil without being assured as to their future; and that, if the Porte objects to make any engagement with him on this subject, he proposes that she should pledge herself to the desired effect to Austria, England, and Russia, if these Powers will accept the responsibility.

As to the frontier rectification, the Prince maintains his demands on the side of the Herzegovina, which include Nichsich; but declines the corner of the Zubzi offered by the Porte. He declares against the cession by Montenegro of any portion of the Vassoievitchi; nor will he abandon the Kutchi, who have acted as his allies, and on whose territory so much fighting took place last autumn. He relinquishes his claim to Spuz, Spitza, and the islands, but on the express condition that all the fortifications within a modern cannon-shot of the Albanian frontier shall be dismantled. He stipulates for the free navigation of the Bojana and of Lake Scutari under the Montenegrin flag, and for the proper maintenance of the channel of the river.

Finally, the Prince states that in the event of the Porte's refusing these conditions, his Delegates will be instructed to hand to the Ottoman Government a note announcing the rupture of negotiations, and that His Highness will maintain the defensive, without attacking, on the basis of the *uti possidetis*. In this event, the Prince adds, that he will appeal from Constantinople to Europe; and he terminates his instructions by an injunction for the observance of courtesy in the method of departure.

I telegraphed the substance of this despatch to your Lordship at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

I do not think that the Prince will make any further concessions of importance without the united and urgent pressure of the Great Powers, or at least of England and Austria; and even then it will simply be because peace is imposed upon him, and not because he recognizes the equity of the terms.

My own opinion, if it is not unbecoming in me to express it, is that the territorial arrangement stated above as those to which the Prince consents, are such as the justice as well as the expediency of the case render the most acceptable; and that the Porte would be wise to agree to them without further haggling.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 400.

The Prince of Montenegro to M. Petrovich.

Cettigné, le $\frac{4}{16}$ Mars, 1877, *après midi.*

(Télégraphique.)

DEPECHE bier reçue.

Quant au rapatriement, je me rends compte des susceptibilités de la Porte pour traiter avec moi sur le sort des Herzégoviniens à leur rentrée, mais, d'autre part, je ne les renverrai jamais chez eux sans être sûr qu'ils pourront y vivre. Comme dernier moyen de conciliation, je propose que la Porte prenne les engagements nécessaires vis-à-vis de l'Autriche, de l'Angleterre, et de la Russie, si ces Puissances veulent bien se charger d'être les intermédiaires.

Quant aux frontières, je décline avec remercîment l'offre de Zubzi, j'accepte Baniani, je maintiens absolument ma demande de la ligne de Somina, Plamina par Ravno et Bische à la Piva, Nichsich inclus; de là je demande que la frontière suive la Tara jusqu'à Moikovaz et se dirige de là à Sisko Sezero. Quant aux Vasseiovitchi vous pouvez déclarer que je ne céderai jamais ce territoire Monténégrin, de même que je n'abandonnerai jamais les Kutchi. La concession que je consens à faire est de renoncer à l'enclave de Spusz, aux Iles, et à Spizza, à la condition expresse que toutes les fortifications situées à moins d'une portée du canon moderne de la frontière soient supprimées. Cette demande est strictement conforme aux usages internationaux, et, dans le cas présent, ne prive la Porte que de moyens d'agression et d'obstruction auxquels elle ne peut tenir dans ses dispositions amicales actuelles.

Enfin vous stipulerez, non seulement la libre navigation du lac et de la Boyane sous notre pavillon, mais l'ouverture et l'entretien du chenal. Cette stipulation est aussi importante que les autres.

Vous présenterez ces conditions aussi clairement et fermement que courtoisement, et, si la Porte les refuse, vous m'en informerez de suite. Dans ce cas je vous enverrai la minute d'une note à remettre, pour rompre les négociations et déclarer que je me tiens, sans attaquer, sur la défensive, sur la ligne de l'*uti possidetis*, en faisant appel à l'Europe.

La note remise, vous prendrez civilement congé.

(Signé) NICOLAS, *Prince de Monténégro.*

No. 401.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 27.)

(No. 51. Political.)

Cettigné, March 17, 1877.

My Lord,

THE Princess Milena, the young Prince Danilo, and the rest of the younger children of his Highness' family, returned yesterday to Cettigné from the country residence at Oria Luka, which, in the event of a recommencement of hostilities, would be in dangerous proximity to the Turkish outposts on the Albanian frontier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 402.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 27.)

(No. 52. Political.)

Cettigné, March 18, 1877.

My Lord,

BEING anxious to know whether Prince Nicholas, whom I had not seen yesterday, had received any news from Constantinople, I called this morning at the Palace; when His Highness told me that he had heard nothing from his Delegates; but that Signor Durando had telegraphed yesterday from Ragusa a message from Signor Melegari. The Italian Government informed Prince Nicholas that, in their opinion, he was not sufficiently conciliatory, and that his attitude rendered an agreement between Montenegro and the Porte very difficult.

His Highness stated to me that he had replied that he wished the Italian Government would tell him explicitly what they want him to do, and what instructions they think that he ought to give his Delegates.

The manner in which the Prince spoke confirmed my opinion that it is by far my most judicious course at this moment not to press him. His own good sense will carry him a long way in the direction of concession; and it is clearly more expedient that he should be allowed to advance of his own accord towards a compromise than that the foreign Agents should be perpetually irritating him by superfluous and precipitate insistance.

His Highness told me that he should telegraph to his Delegates that they had his authority to assent to the continuation of the armistice, if proposed by the Porte.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 403.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 27.)

(No. 53. Political.)

Cettigné, March 18, 1877.

My Lord,

I SAID to Prince Nicholas this morning that I saw by the Vienna and Trieste papers, received by yesterday's mail, that an understanding in a pacific sense between the Great Powers with respect to the Eastern question seemed imminent. His Highness observed that he supposed that I wanted to frighten him by insinuating that Russia would disarm; and I replied that I certainly thought that such a step on her part was very likely. He then admitted that he was prepared for such a contingency; but maintained that the Russian Slav Committee would, in the event of his requiring further aid, continue to supply him with it.

I have reason to know that His Highness is in reality quite aware of the very great prospect that exists that Russia will shortly decide upon demobilisation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 404.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 27.)

(No. 54. Political.)

Cettigné, March 18, 18

My Lord,

PRINCE NICHOLAS spoke to me this morning on the subject of the refugees, and said that he hoped that Austria, England, and Russia would not object to accept the responsibility proposed in his telegram of the 16th instant to his Delegates at Constantinople, a copy of which was inclosed in my despatch No. 50 of yesterday. He declared that he could never bring himself to send back these unfortunates by assuring them that they would be cared for on their return home, unless he felt a conviction that he was telling the truth; and he was certain that they would never go back without such an assurance.

I think that I may safely say that this is really the case, and that from what I have seen of these people, and heard from their own lips, they would rather continue in their present misery, or even die of hunger and cold in Montenegro, than venture back into the Herzegovina without the guarantee of which the Prince speaks.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 405.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 27.)

(No. 56. Political.)

Cettigné, March 19, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 47 of the 16th instant, I have the honour to inclose copies of further telegrams which have passed between Consul Green and myself respecting the transport of Montenegrin stores and the revictualling of Nichsich.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 405.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Monson.

Scutari, March 16, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

DERVISH PASHA informs me he is doing all in his power to expedite the transit of the maize; the weather has, however, hitherto been most unfavourable. Yesterday two boats with the first cargo entered the Boyana, but he does not think the grain they carry can possibly be at Riéka under five days from this date. Two other vessels arrived at Medua yesterday, and are now transhipping their grain. Dervish Pasha suggests that you should get Suleiman Pasha, who has full powers in this matter, to send him orders to lend Montenegro 100,000 okes of maize, and in that case he would at once forward it to Riéka.

No instructions from Constantinople as yet about the revictualling of Nichsich.

Inclosure 2 in No. 405.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Monson.

Scutari, March 18, 1377, 2·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE just seen Dervish Pasha, who informs me that he has been authorized to act up to my request, to hasten by all the means in his power the despatch of grain to Montenegro. Consequently to-morrow morning a steamer will tow to Riéka five bondras with 3,000 okes of maize each, lent by the Turkish Government; the Pasha's aide-de-camp and the Montenegrin officer here will accompany the grain. After this the despatch of maize will probably be continuous. Dervish Pasha also wishes to commence at once the revictualling of Nichsich. The provisions are all ready at Spuz, but his Excellency points out that 200 horses are quite insufficient to effect the service quickly, and he argues that the Prince of Montenegro should supply 200 horses every day until the provisions are conveyed. He on his part will do his utmost to fall in with the wishes of the Prince. I should like to have a telegram from you to be able to say that His Highness is pleased with the Pasha's present action, and I hope you will be able to facilitate the matter of the pack animals for Nichsich.

Inclosure 3 in No. 405.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Monson.

Scutari, March 18, 1877, 5:55 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

DERVISH PASHA consents to receive a Montenegrin Agent with whom to make arrangements about the revictualling of Nichsich, and he would be glad if the Prince would send for the purpose M. Stefan Radovich. Orders will be given to the captain of the steamer that proceeds to-morrow to Riéka to bring the Agent here.

Inclosure 4 in No. 405.

Mr. Monson to Consul Kirby Green.

Cettigné, March 19, 1877, 8 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

RECEIVED both your telegrams last night and have communicated with Prince's Secretary. Will telegraph you as soon as he gives me answer, but I fear that the Prince has but 200 horses in all disposable. He will doubtless appreciate Dervish Pasha's prompt action.

No. 406.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 57. Political.)

My Lord, *Cettigné, March* 19, 1877.

PRINCE NICHOLAS received yesterday evening from the Italian Government the telegraphic announcement that your Lordship had agreed with the Russian Ambassador in London as to the terms of a Protocol which embodied a pacific arrangement between the Great Powers and Turkey.

His Highness asked me last night if I could enlighten him upon the nature of the understanding arrived at, but I replied that I had no information as to the action which it had been decided to take with regard to Turkey. Of course, an essential article of the agreement would be the demobilization of the Russian army.

The Prince, addressing himself to Colonel Thömmel and to me, observed that in the interests of the peace of Europe the news was doubtless very satisfactory; but that he feared that, do what they would, Austria and England would never succeed in animating Turkey with energy sufficient to carry out the promised reforms.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 407.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 58. Political.)

My Lord, *Cettigné, March* 19, 1877.

THE language which Prince Nicholas employs to me about the Kutchi district is so strong that I doubt whether any pressure would persuade him to abandon its inhabitants to the vengeance of the Turks; and I presume that this will be the hardest point to settle with the Porte as regard the territorial arrangements.

As for the district of Nichsich, if the Porte will not give way altogether, it may perhaps be possible to effect a compromise by giving the Prince the plain, and leaving the Douga Pass and its forts in the possession of the Turks.

His Highness says that, of one hundred and eighty Mussulman families in Nichsich, eighty at least have let him know that they would accept his sovereignty.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 408.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 27.)

(Telegraphic.)

(Private and Confidential.) *Vienna, March* 26, 1877.

THE evening papers state that General Ignatiew will go by Berlin to St. Petersburgh.

The Emperor told me to-day that he will not receive him till to-morrow, and after asking me whether negotiations were still going on between London and St. Petersburgh, His Majesty expressed a hope that Her Majesty's Government would not insist upon receiving from Russia a formal engagement to disarm should she continue unwilling to give one, as she might thus be unable to avoid war, whereas he believes her to be earnestly desirous of peace; and if she should, contrary to his expectations and her professions, commence hostilities after the signature of the Protocol, the situation would not, in His Majesty's opinion, be worse than if she had declared war before there had been a question of a Protocol.

No. 409.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

Foreign Office, March 27, 1877, 8 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

TELEGRAPH to Consular Officers throughout Turkish dominions to be especially careful in investigating and reporting any cases of disturbances or outrages that may come to their knowledge, and authorize them to charge in their public accounts the expense of visiting any places where such occurrences are reported to have taken place.

No. 410.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 27, 1 P.M.)

Constantinople, March 26, 11·50 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

IN consequence of the telegram of Musurus Pasha of last Friday, orders were sent to-day to all the provinces to call out the third ban of the reserve and the entire fleet has received directions to proceed to the Upper Bosphorus.

I have just received your Lordship's emphatic contradiction of Musurus Pasha's report, and will communicate it to the Grand Vizier early to-morrow morning.

No. 411.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 27, 2·30 P.M.)

Constantinople, March 27, 1877, 12·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE been pressing Porte for some time to withdraw their troops from the Drina Island and from Yavor, and Minister for Foreign Affairs told me this morning that orders had been sent to military commanders to evacuate both these positions.

Sent to Belgrade.

No. 412.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 27, 2·45 P.M.)

Constantinople, March 27, 1877, 12·40 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

VICE-CONSUL at Adrianople having returned from scene of late outrages telegraphs following details yesterday:—

"On the 24th February, a gang of seven Turks visited Bektaos and subjected seven of the principal men to shameful treatment by beating them with sticks and cutting three with knives, one badly, and extorted from them various sums of money. Details will follow."

No. 413.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 27.)

Salonica, March 27, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

TELEGRAPHIC orders received here last night from the Minister of War to call out, without loss of time, all the Mustalifis battalions in territorial jurisdiction of 3rd army corps of Monastir. Each company of every battalion is to have a complement of 200 men.

No. 414.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

Foreign Office, March 27, 1877, 3·40 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

ASCERTAIN whether it is true that arms have recently been distributed to the Mussulman population in the Turkish provinces.

No. 415.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 27, 4·15 P.M.)

Constantinople, March 27, 1877, 1·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING from Consul at Erzeroum, dated 24th instant:—

"Turkish bands crossed Russian frontier, successfully robbed a number of animals.

"Russian Commander of forces informed Turkish authorities here, through Russian Consul, yesterday, that stolen property, if not restored in forty-eight hours, will make reprisals.

"Commander-in-chief's despatch not so hostile as reported, but firm.

"Governor-General has promised to enforce action. Russian Consul has requested Commander-in-chief to be patient."

No. 416.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Foreign Office, March 27, 1877, 5 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

COMMUNICATE following to Monson:—

"I have sent following to Mr. Jocelyn:—

"'I have to instruct you to join with your Austrian colleague in pressing on the Porte the expediency of coming to an arrangement as to the refugees.'"

No. 417.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

Foreign Office, March 27, 1877, 7·10 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.)

THE Russian Government have proposed that the drafting of a Protocol should be proceeded with, and urge that its signature should not be delayed. They agree that before its signature, the Russian Ambassador should make a declaration in the name of his Government, and leave with me a Memorandum, to be used publicly if necessary, to the effect that if the Porte accepts the advice of the Powers, and shows itself ready to replace its forces on a peace footing, and to take in hand seriously the reforms mentioned in the Protocol, the Sultan may send a special Envoy to St. Petersburgh to treat on the question of disarmament, to which disarmament the Emperor of Russia will also on his side consent.

Count Schouvaloff added a proviso that if a recommencement of massacres took place similar to those in Bulgaria, then the engagement on the part of Russia to demobilize would no longer hold good.

No. 418.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

Foreign Office, March 27, 1877, 7·50 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

YOU will make it clearly understood to the Grand Vizier and Minister for Foreign Affairs that I have never given any advice of the kind attributed to me by Musurus Pasha.

We continue to negotiate for a pacific solution, and consider it most essential that Turkey should maintain a prudent and conciliatory attitude.

No. 419.

Memorandum communicated officially to the Earl of Derby by Count Schouvaloff, March 27, 1877.

LE Cabinet Impérial, dans son désir sincère de la paix, autorise l'Ambassadeur de Russie de signer le Protocole en faisant, au nom de son Gouvernement, la déclaration qui concerne la démobilisation Russe, telle que Lord Derby l'a consignée sur papier Samedi dernier. Si cela était jugé nécessaire, le Cabinet Impérial serait prêt à réitérer cette déclaration par le télégraphe directement à Constantinople.

La seule objection du Cabinet Impérial porte sur tout retard dans la signature du Protocole, qu'il considère nuisible pour la solution pacifique désirée par toutes les Puissances.

Le Prince Gortchakow pense que le langage unanime de l'Europe affirmant son accord et donnant de sages conseils à la Turquie, agira en ce moment dans un sens favorable sur les décisions de la Porte, et qu'il ne devrait pas être ajourné. Lorsque celle-ci verra que la Russie est prête à démobiliser, et qu'il ne dépend plus que de la Porte d'assurer la paix, et de poursuivre son œuvre de réorganisation, elle se montrera plus traitable et plus conciliante dans les négociations pendantes avec le Monténégro, qui resteraient ainsi le seul obstacle à la solution définitive et pacifique de la question.

Le Prince Gortchakow croît, en conséquence, qu'il y aurait lieu de signer le Protocole aussitôt que possible, et d'en transmettre même la teneur à Constantinople par le télégraphe, de manière à ce qu'elle y soit connue avant le 13 Avril, terme de l'expiration de l'armistice.

Autrement la Porte s'exposerait à de grands dangers, et il appartient aux Grandes Puissances de les lui épargner par des exhortations unanimes.

No. 420.

Memorandum communicated confidentially to the Earl of Derby by Count Schouvaloff, March 27, 1877.

L'IDÉE de ne signer le Protocole qu'après la conclusion de la paix avec le Monténégro n'a surgi que dans le courant de ces derniers jours. Jusque là la question de sa signature immédiate n'était dépendante que de la démobilisation de l'armée Russe.

Cet obstacle est écarté, et les considérations exprimées par le Cabinet Impérial méritent la plus grande attention.

Si l'adoption du Protocole pouvait exercer une bonne influence à Constantinople, pourquoi négliger ce moyen, peut-être le dernier, *d'assurer la paix de l'Europe?*

L'objection semble être que l'Angleterre ne voudrait pas signer de document qui deviendrait inutile s'il n'assurait pas le maintien de la paix.

Pourquoi le Cabinet Anglais n'accepterait-il pas les côtés favorables de la signature immédiate du Protocole en prenant ses précautions contre les inconvénients qu'il appréhende?

Pourquoi ne déclarerait-il pas aux co-signataires que l'Angleterre ne reconnaît au Protocole de caractère obligatoire que s'il atteignait le but qu'elle se propose, c'est-à-dire, le désarmement et la paix, et que dans le cas contraire ce document perderait toute sa valeur?

En acceptant ce point de vue, le Cabinet Anglais assurerait probablement à l'Europe les bienfaits de la paix et lui apporterait la branche d'olivier.

No. 421.

Circular addressed to Her Majesty's Consular Officers in the Turkish Dominions.

Foreign Office, March 27, 1877.

Sir,

IT is of great importance in the present disturbed state of the Turkish Empire, to which public attention in this country is so earnestly directed, that Her Majesty's Government should receive early and reliable reports of any acts of violence that may take place, and especially of any outrages that may be perpetrated on the Christian inhabitants of the Provinces.

I have accordingly to instruct you to be especially careful in investigating and reporting any such occurrences that may come to your knowledge; and I authorize you to charge in your public accounts the expense which you incur in visiting any places for the purpose of verifying the truth of the reports which may have reached you.

You will take immediate steps for giving instructions in accordance with this despatch to all the Vice-Consuls and Consular Agents under your orders.

I am, &c.
(For the Earl of Derby),
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 422.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 188.)

Foreign Office, March 27, 1877.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a Circular which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Consular officers throughout the Turkish dominions,* enjoining them to be especially careful in investigating and reporting on any cases of disturbances or outrages that may come to their knowledge; and authorising them to charge in their public accounts the expense of visiting any places where such occurrences are reported to have taken place.

In order to avoid any loss of time in the matter, I have telegraphed to you this day requesting you to give instructions in the above sense by telegraph to Her Majesty's Consular officers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 423.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 191.)

Foreign Office, March 27, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 201 of the 15th instant, relative to the negotiations between Montenegro and the Porte, and I approve of your proceedings, as reported therein, with a view to bring about an understanding which would lead to the conclusion of peace.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 424.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 192.)

Foreign Office, March 27, 1877.

My Lord,

I APPROVE your proceedings as reported in your despatch No. 191 of the 14th instant relative to attempts which have been made to coerce the Christian inhabitants of Philippopolis into sending a petition of thanks to the Sultan for the grant of a Constitution.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 425.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 193.)

Foreign Office, March 27, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 193, Confidential, of the 14th instant, mentioning reports which had reached you through the Minister of Police, as to steps which were being taken to promote a fresh insurrection among the Bulgarians, and I have to express to you my approval of your proceedings in instituting inquiries on the subject, and

* No. 421.

of your language to Said Pasha with regard to the execution of the sentence of the Commission.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 426.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 195.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 27, 1877.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 181 of yesterday's date, I have this day further instructed you by telegraph to make it distinctly understood to the Grand Vizier and Minister for Foreign Affairs that I have never given any advice of the kind attributed to me by Musurus Pasha, to the effect that inasmuch as the negotiations for the signature of the Protocol had proved unsuccessful Turkey had better prepare for war and take steps for completing her military preparations.

Negotiations are still proceeding with a view to a pacific solution, and Her Majesty's Government consider it to be most essential that the Porte should maintain a prudent and conciliatory attitude.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 427.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 97.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, March 27, 1877.*

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me to-day and informed me that the Russian Government, being sincerely desirous of peace, would authorize him to make at the time of the signature of the proposed Protocol a declaration to the effect which he had mentioned to me in conversation on the 24th instant.

That declaration, of which Count Schouvaloff was to leave a memorandum with me to be used publicly if necessary, was, according to his Excellency's proposal, to be of the following tenour:—

That if the Porte accepts the advice of the Powers, and shows itself ready to replace its forces on a peace footing, and to take in hand seriously the reforms mentioned in the Protocol, the Sultan may send a special Envoy to St. Petersburgh to treat on the question of disarmament, to which disarmament the Emperor of Russia will also on his side consent.

Count Schouvaloff added that if it were considered necessary the Russian Government would be ready to repeat the declaration directly by the telegraph at Constantinople.

His Excellency said that his Government objected only to anything which could delay the signature of the Protocol, believing that such delay would be prejudicial to the pacific solution desired by all the Powers. In Prince Gortchakow's opinion the unanimous voice of Europe, affirming its agreement and giving wise advice to Turkey, would act at this moment favourably on the decisions of the Porte, and it would be unwise to delay the opportunity of producing this effect. When the Porte found that Russia was ready to demobilize, and that it rested with itself alone to secure peace and to pursue its work of reorganization, it would show itself more moderate and conciliatory in the pending negotiations with Montenegro, which would thus remain the only obstacle to the definitive and pacific solution of the question. Prince Gortchakow believed, therefore, that it would be best to sign the Protocol as soon as possible, and even to forward its tenour to Constantinople by telegraph, so that it might be known before the 13th of April, at which date the armistice expired. Otherwise, Prince Gortchakow believed that the Porte would be exposed to great dangers, from which it behoved the Great Powers to save it by unanimous exhortation.

I told Count Schouvaloff that I would submit the proposals and views of his Government to my colleagues without delay, and would inform him of their conclusion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 428.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 98. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, March 27, 1877.*

AFTER making to me the communication recorded in my immediately preceding despatch, the Russian Ambassador addressed to me the following confidential observations:—

The idea of delaying the signature of the Protocol until after the conclusion of peace with Montenegro had only arisen, his Excellency said, within the last few days. Until then, the question of its immediate signature depended only on the demobilization of the Russian army. That obstacle was now removed, and the considerations now urged by the Russian Government deserved the most serious attention. If the adoption of the Protocol might exercise a salutary influence at Constantinople, why neglect this, perhaps the last, means of securing the peace of Europe?

The objection seemed to be that England was unwilling to become a party to a document which would be useless if it did not secure the maintenance of peace. But why should not Her Majesty's Government accept the favourable side of the immediate signature of the Protocol, while at the same time taking precautions against the inconveniences which they seemed to apprehend. Why should they not declare to the other signatory Powers that England does not recognize any binding character in the Protocol unless it results in the attainment of the object which is desired, namely, disarmament and peace; and that in the contrary case the document would lose all validity?

If they took this view, Count Schouvaloff said, Her Majesty's Government would probably secure to Europe the benefits of peace.

I told Count Schouvaloff that I would submit his suggestion to the consideration of my colleagues.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 429.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 105.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, March 27, 1877.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 122 of the 21st instant, in which you speak of the hope entertained at St. Petersburgh that Her Majesty's Government will use their influence at Constantinople to impress on the Porte the urgent necessity of concluding peace with Montenegro, I have to point out to you that Her Majesty's Government have repeatedly advised the Turkish Government to come to terms with Prince Nicholas.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 430.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 97.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 27, 1877.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 239 of the 15th instant, I have to state to you that I approve your having, on learning that Count Andrassy had not received a copy of the Draft Protocol submitted to me on the 11th instant by Count Schouvaloff, communicated to him confidentially a copy of it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 431.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Monson.

(No. 9.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 27, 1877.

I HAVE received your telegram of the 25th instant, in which you state that Prince Nicholas had observed to you that he did not think that the Porte sufficiently considered the excessive burden thrown upon him by the maintenance of the refugees within his frontier, and the fact that unless the fugitives returned to their homes by the end of April, which was not far distant, it would be useless for them to sow their crops for this year's harvest, in which case it would be saddled until next year with the support of an idle population.

His Highness had, according to your report, added that his arrangements with the refugee Chiefs had been completed, and that he would undertake that, if the Porte would accept his co-operation, and his moral and material assistance, the fugitives should, in thirty days, be reinstated in their homes, he himself furnishing the means of transport and aid towards rebuilding their houses.

The Prince had concluded by asking Her Majesty's Government to unite with that of Austria-Hungary in calling the serious attention of the Porte to a matter which he considered to be of great importance.

I have to state to you, in reply to this communication, that Her Majesty's Government are fully alive to the importance of an arrangement being effected by the Porte with regard to the refugees in Montenegro, and that I have instructed Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople by telegraph to join with his Austrian colleague in pressing on the Turkish Government the expediency of taking decisive steps in the matter without delay.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 432.

The Earl of Derby to Musurus Pasha.

Dear Musurus Pasha, *Foreign Office, March* 27, 1877.

I HAVE received telegraphic information from our Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople that you had reported me as having stated to you in conversation that difficulties had arisen with regard to the conditions of the Protocol, that its conclusion had been dropped for the present, and that consequently the Porte had better prepare for war, and take steps to complete its military preparations.

I have telegraphed to Mr. Jocelyn to deny that I had made such a statement or given any advice of the kind. I shall be glad if you will let me know whether you have sent such a report to your Government, and if you have done so I must beg that you will immediately and emphatically contradict it. It had never entered into my mind to advise such a course, as we are still hopeful of an arrangement, and are most desirous that your Government should maintain a prudent and conciliatory attitude.

It is the more necessary that you should immediately telegraph in this sense as I hear this morning that the Porte is making active preparations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 433.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 28.)

(No. 125. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March* 21, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship three despatches which I have received from the Military Attaché to this Embassy on the subject of reported arrangements respecting privateering between America and Russia, the demobilization of the Russian active army, and agents of the German Government in the northern provinces of Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 433.

Colonel Wellesley to Lord A. Loftus.

(Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March* 21, 1877.

YOUR Lordship is aware that just before the Russian Mediterranean squadron was sent to America, Mr. Boker, the American Minister at this Court, was summoned by the Emperor to Tzarskoe Sélo, where His Majesty was then staying.

Various rumours were then abroad with respect to this audience.

I am now informed on very good authority, that the object of the Emperor in sending for the American Minister was to make a proposal through him to the Government of the United States respecting facilities to be given to American capitalists, &c., for the equipment of privateers against English commerce, in the event of a war between England and Russia.

My informant added that he believed that Mr. Fish was not averse to some such arrangement being made.

I was also informed by the same person, that the American General Butler is director of a company which is now building ten fast vessels especially adapted to privateering.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRED. WELLESLEY, *Military Attaché.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 433.

Colonel Wellesley to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March* 21, 1877.

I AM informed that all preparations are made for the demobilization of the Russian army, the order for which is now daily expected.

Every effort will be made to interfere as little as possible with the passenger and goods traffic on the various lines along which the troops will be carried.

With this view the troops will be demobilized more gradually than would otherwise have been the case, the grain, &c., being allowed to come down to the south, and the troops being transported in the empty carriages, on their return journey.

All the surplus horses will be sold on the spot for foreign export, so that the expenses of carrying them into the interior of Russia will be saved.

A General, commanding a division of Cavalry on the Armenian frontier, and who has come to St. Petersburgh for a few days, told me yesterday that the army of which his division forms a part will, in the event of demobilization, retain its present positions, in order to consume the provisions which are there stored.

Should Russia disarm, which now appears most probable, these gradual measures of demobilization will probably give rise to hostile comments to the effect that the disarmament is only in words.

In my opinion, however, the Russian Government will be desirous to demobilize as speedily as possible, and any tardiness must be attributed entirely to economical motives.

I believe that if Russia is able to retire from her present position, it will be a long time before she is rash enough to mobilize again for the purpose of isolated action against Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRED. WELLESLEY, *Military Attaché.*

Inclosure 3 in No. 433.

Colonel Wellesley to Lord A. Loftus.

(Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March* 21, 1877.

I AM told by a Russian officer who is usually well informed, that positive intelligence has been received of the presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina of German agents, for the purpose of stimulating the present insurrection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRED. WELLESLEY, *Military Attaché.*

No. 434.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 28.)

St. Petersburgh, March 27, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE received the following telegram from Monson :—

"To Her Majesty's Government.

"Prince Nicholas received on the 25th instant news that the Porte would not accede to his demands of the 16th as to the frontier, and that as to the navigation of the Boiana, the channel must be put and kept in order by Montenegro.

"The telegram made no mention of refugee question, respecting which His Highness telegraphed again for information.

"To-day another unintelligible telegram has been received from Constantinople. The conviction gains ground here that the despatches are intentionally mutilated."

No. 435.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 28.)

St. Petersburgh, March 27, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

GENERAL IGNATIEW had an audience of the Emperor to-day, and after dining at the Palace will leave for Berlin.

He held the same language to me this morning as on Sunday, but I learn from others that he also speaks of war being unavoidable if Her Majesty's Government insist on receiving the engagement they have asked for, and Count Andrassy is believed by some of my colleagues to consider a satisfactory settlement as far from certain.

No. 436.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 28, *noon.*)

St. Petersburgh, March 28, 1877, 1 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

IT is my duty to inform your Lordship that the present crisis here is one of serious gravity. I am privately informed that if the condition for demobilization is maintained as proposed by Her Majesty's Government war is certain. Emperor of Russia regards it as one of humiliation, and will prefer war to its acceptance.

Can no form be found for giving confidential assurances which will meet requirements without signed document? I am told that the Emperor is losing patience, and that for the last few days he has assumed a determined (?) tone. Unless difficulty as regards the demobilization can be solved and the Protocol signed it is my conviction that the Russian army will cross the Pruth in about three weeks. Dangers of such an event to the peace of Europe are too apparent, and every attempt should be made to avert them. Public opinion here and at Moscow is becoming excited. Unless, therefore, satisfactory solution can be speedily arrived at war will be inevitable.

No. 437.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 28, 2 P.M.)

Constantinople, March 28, 1877, 10 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

IN consequence of the alarm which prevailed two days ago caused by Musurus' telegram, Moukhtar Pasha was yesterday hurried off to his post at Erzeroum.

Reouf Pasha, Minister of Marine, told me very confidentially last night that he was endeavouring to persuade his colleagues to come to an arrangement with the Montenegrin delegates.

This had been impossible during the presence of Governor of Erzeroum, and it is very desirable that they should not be allowed to leave Constantinople, as an understanding appears to be less hopeless than before.

His Excellency seems to be advising that a tacit understanding should be come to

with Prince of Montenegro, as to future cession of Nichsich, Turkey retaining it for the present to avoid arousing the susceptibilities of national party.

I have advised delegates not to hurry their departure.

No. 438.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 28, 2·30 P.M.)

Constantinople, March 28, 1877, 10·20 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

BARKER will leave Crete for Salonica on the 2nd of April. Blunt had better await his arrival.

No. 439.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

Foreign Office, March 28, 1877, 3 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to Vice-Consul Dupuis' telegram repeated by you yesterday, what steps have been taken to punish the offenders in the case of outrages at Bektaory?

No. 440.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 28.)

Vienna, March 28, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.)

I HAVE had a conversation this morning with Minister for Foreign Affairs on the substance of your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, and I learnt from him that he had expressed serious misgivings to General Ignatiew as to danger of leaving the question of disarmament to be treated at St. Petersburgh by an Envoy from Turkey, as he fears that in such negotiation a difficulty would be raised as to initiative, which might lead to war.

He evidently would prefer an arrangement by which the Protocol should be signed on understanding that Russia should immediately afterwards announce by a despatch that she would disarm as soon as she was satisfied that the Porte is prepared to accept advice of Powers, and to carry out the reforms mentioned in the Protocol.

He said that he would make no proposal, and was ready to accept any arrangement which might be come to between England and Russia, but he would acquaint Count Beust with his opinion that in the interest of peace as little as possible should be allowed to depend on the action of the Porte.

He also evidently hopes that peace of Europe will not be subservient to arrangements between Porte and Montenegro, and he is of opinion that an obligation on the part of the former to keep open channel of the Boiana, might be a constant cause of hostilities between them.

He will, I think, inform Prince Nicholas that General Ignatiew has told the Turkish Ambassador that the Porte is justified in refusing to cede Nichsich to Montenegro, and that Prince Nicholas ought to be satisfied if he can retain possession of Skuptchi. I do not believe that he has quite given up his wish that reference should be made in the Protocol to the Turkish note of February of last year.

No. 441.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 28.)

Rome, March 28, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.)

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs authorizes me to say that if a Protocol is signed on the conditions mentioned in your Lordship's telegram to Lord A. Loftus of yesterday's

date, the Italian Government will be ready, should Her Majesty's Government desire it, to urge the Porte to send a Special Envoy to St. Petersburgh to treat the question of disarmament.

His Excellency hinted that they might possibly be disposed to send their Minister to Constantinople for this purpose.

No. 442.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 28, 1877.

I TO-DAY informed Count Schouvaloff that being unwilling to risk unnecessary delay, Her Majesty's Government had decided that the Protocol might be signed—supposing an agreement upon all other points connected with it could be arrived at—without waiting for conclusion of peace between Turkey and Montenegro. They could only do so, however, upon the condition he had himself suggested, that inasmuch as our consent was given solely in the interest of European peace, it must be understood that if disarmament and peace were not obtained, the Protocol should be regarded as null and void.

I asked Count Schouvaloff to prepare the draft of the declaration respecting disarmament which the Russian Government proposed to make previous to the signature of the Protocol, in order that we might discuss its wording. The question of the wording of the Protocol was left for subsequent consideration.

No. 443.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 99.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, March* 28, 1877.

I HAD an interview with the Russian Ambassador to-day, and informed him of the conclusions to which Her Majesty's Government had come upon the question of the signature of the proposed Protocol. I said that, on a full consideration of all the circumstances, and being unwilling to run the risk of unnecessary delay, Her Majesty's Government had determined that the Protocol might be signed, supposing that an agreement upon all other points connected with it had been arrived at, without waiting for the conclusion of peace between Turkey and Montenegro. They could, however, only do so upon the condition which he had himself thrown out as a personal suggestion at our last conversation—namely, that, inasmuch as it was solely in the interest of European peace that we had consented to sign any document such as that proposed, it must be understood that, in the event of the object which we had in view—namely, disarmament and peace—not being obtained, the Protocol should be regarded as null and void.

With reference to the declaration which it was proposed by the Russian Government that they should make previous to the signature of the Protocol, I thought it would be desirable that its wording should be settled between us; and I requested Count Schouvaloff to have the goodness to prepare it accordingly. The question of the wording of the Protocol was left for subsequent consideration.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 444.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(No. 191. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, March* 28, 1877.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatches Nos. 228, 229, and 230 of the 23rd instant, marked Most Confidential, respecting the communications which have passed between your Excellency, General Ignatiew, and the Duc Decazes on the subject of the negotiations for the Protocol, and especially with reference to the question of the demobilization of her troops by Russia; and I have to acquaint your Excellency that Her

Majesty's Government approve the language which you held to General Ignatiew as reported in your Excellency's despatch No. 229 above referred to.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 445.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 197.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 28, 1877.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your telegraphic despatch dated yesterday reporting that Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Adrianople has returned from Bektaory, and has reported that a body of Turks had shamefully ill-treated some of the principal inhabitants of that place, beating, wounding, and extorting money from them.

You will inquire what steps have been taken by the Turkish authorities to punish the perpetrators of the outrages reported by Mr. Dupuis.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 446.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Holmes.

(No. 2.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 28, 1877.

I APPROVE the language employed by you, as reported in your despatch, Political, No. 11 of the 5th instant, with a view to remove mistrust with regard to the attitude of Her Majesty's Government in the present state of affairs in the East.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 447.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Monson.

(No. 10.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 28, 1877.

I APPROVE your having telegraphed to Consul Green, pressing him to urge on the Commander-in-chief at Scutari the necessity of forwarding at once a certain quantity of grain to Rieka for the relief of the Kutchi and refugees, as reported in your despatch No. 47 of the 16th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 448.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 30.)

(No. 208.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 20, 1877.

THE first Turkish Parliament was opened yesterday by the Sultan in person.

The ceremony took place in the great central hall of the Dolma Baghtche Palace, in the presence of all the principal Officers of State, the high religious Dignitaries of the Empire, and a certain number of the members of the Diplomatic Body.

Although, from the vastness of the place and the brilliancy of the dresses, the scene bore an imposing character, the proceedings themselves were conducted in a very unpretending manner.

The members of the Senate and Chamber were arranged, standing respectively on the right and left of His Majesty, whose opening speech was read by his private Secretary, Saïd Pasha.

It was of considerable length, and I have the honour to inclose herewith a summary in French of its contents, which appeared in last night's journals.

On its conclusion the Speech was returned to His Majesty, who bowed to the

Parliament and to the Ministers, and retired, sending at the same time the Minister for Foreign Affairs to express to the members of the Diplomatic Body his gratification at their attendance.

Neither my Russian nor my German colleagues were present, the latter being represented by his Second Secretary and dragoman, and the former by his dragoman alone.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure in No. 448.

Newspaper Extract.

LE discours commence par déclarer que la base d'une bonne administration doit reposer sur la confiance réciproque des gouvernants et des gouvernés, sur la réglementation des droits et des devoirs de l'Etat et des populations; la diminution des forces de l'Empire fut une conséquence de l'inobservation des lois. Il cite les réformes du Sultan Mahmoud et d'Abdul Medjid. La guerre de Crimée détourna le Gouvernement de ses efforts d'amélioration intérieure; grâce au concours des Puissances alliées, la guerre aboutit à une paix qui plaçait l'intégrité et l'indépendance de l'Empire sous la garantie de toute l'Europe, mais la porte des emprunts s'est trouvée ouverte. On espérait profiter de la paix qui avait succédé à cette guerre, mais les embarras intérieurs suscités par des intrigues n'ont pas laissé de répit au Gouvernement; constamment tenu en haleine, il dut recourir à des armements et à des mouvements des troupes qui enlevaient à la population, chaque année, une grande partie des hommes valides, occasionnaient des frais énormes, et qui ont fini par bouleverser les finances de l'Etat sous l'influence d'un régime qui n'attachait pas l'importance due à l'équilibre budgétaire; l'insurrection de l'Herzégovine aggrava la situation. Au lieu de chercher à pourvoir aux besoins urgents, tout en sauvegardant les engagements du Trésor, on prit le parti de réduire arbitrairement le taux de toutes les dettes. Les hostilités éclatèrent avec la Serbie et le Monténégro, et c'est au plus fort de la crise qu'eut lieu l'avénement au Trône. Convaincu que le progrès réalisé dans les Etats Européens est la conséquence des institutions libérales qui les régissent, et que les maux dont souffrent la Turquie ont eu leur source dans le système absolutiste, le Sultan a décrété et promulgué la Constitution. Il s'estime heureux d'inaugurer aujourd'hui la première Session du Parlement.

Les lois dont la Chambre sera saisie cette année concernent le règlement intérieur, l'élection des Députés, l'organisation des vilayets et des communes, les pensions et la retraite des magistrats et des employés, la Cour des Comptes, la presse, et le budget.

Le discours recommande aux Députés de faire venir à Constantinople des représentants des détenteurs de titres Ottomans et de s'entendre avec eux sur un arrangement qui sauvegarde leurs intérêts, tout en permettant de pourvoir aux dépenses urgentes du Trésor.

Le Sultan annonce la fondation et l'entretien à ses frais d'une grande Ecole d'Administration. Il remercie l'armée de toutes les preuves de dévouement qu'elle a données, annonce le rétablissement des relations amicales avec la Serbie, et exprime l'espoir d'arriver bientôt à un arrangement satisfaisant avec le Monténégro.

Le dernier paragraphe du discours se rapporte aux relations extérieures. Ces relations sont, dit-il, empreintes de cette amitié et de cette déférence qui constitue pour la Turquie une tradition des plus précieuses. La Turquie avait accepté la Conférence sur les bases proposées par l'Angleterre. La Conférence n'a pas abouti, mais la Turquie a montré qu'elle était prête à dévancer dans la pratique les vœux et les conseils des Puissances amies. Les preuves de modération et de sincérité fournies par la Turquie auront servi à resserrer davantage les liens de sympathie et d'amitié qui unissent la Turquie à la grande famille Européenne.

No. 449.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 30.)

(No. 209.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 20, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 170 of 6th instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith, copy of a translation of the Imperial Firman delivered to the Prince of Servia on the conclusion of peace with that Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure in No. 449.

Firman dated $\frac{\text{February 29}}{\text{March 12}}$, 1877.

(Traduction.)
(Après les titres d'usage.)

NOTRE sollicitude Impériale avait toujours eu pour objet tout ce qui pouvait contribuer à consolider la tranquillité et le progrès de la Principauté de Serbie, qui fait partie intégrante de notre Empire, et à assurer le bonheur et la prospérité de ses habitants. Les immunités et priviléges contenus dans les Hatts Impériaux délivrés à diverses époques n'ont eu pour but que la réalisation de ce désir. Une preuve éclatante de notre bienveillance particulière pour le peuple Serbe, en considération de sa fidélité éprouvée envers notre Gouvernement Impérial, avait encore été donnée, notamment par la décision en vertu de laquelle la garde des forteresses Impériales sises en Serbie avaient été confiée à la Principauté. Les rapports de confiance et de sincérité entre la Principauté et la Cour Suzeraine étaient ainsi consolidés et développés de jour en jour davantage, lorsque malgré les efforts de notre Gouvernement Impérial pour garantir l'ordre de choses existant, nous avons été péniblement affectés en voyant qu'il n'avait pas été possible de prévenir les événements malheureux qui menaçaient de troubler profondément aussi bien la situation intérieure de la Serbie que sa situation vis-à-vis la Cour Suzeraine.

Sur l'acceptation empressée de la proposition du rétablissement de la tranquillité qui avait été fait par notre Gouvernement Impérial dans le but d'épargner à la Serbie les malheurs de la guerre, et qui avait en vue le retour de la Serbie à la situation qui existait pour elle avant les derniers malheureux événements, vos Délégués les très honorables MM. Christich et Malitch sont arrivés à Constantinople avec des pleins pouvoirs de votre part. Dans les pourparlers qui ont eu lieu entre eux et notre Sublime Porte, ils ont su lui donner verbalement et par écrit des explications et des assurances par lesquelles ils ont garanti que le contenu des Firmans délivrés à diverses dates serait scrupuleusement observé, que les obligations qui avaient été mises à la charge de la Serbie en compensation des priviléges et immunités de la Principauté seraient exécutées, et qu'on ne permettrait désormais rien qui fût de nature à troubler matériellement et moralement les bons rapports de la Serbie avec notre Gouvernement.

Ces applications et ces assurances ayant renouvelé et confirmé notre confiance Impériale dans la fidélité et la droiture de la Principauté et du peuple Serbe, nous avons ainsi ratifié et approuvé le rétablissement d'un *status quo ante*, et de même que notre pardon Impérial a été accordé à ceux des habitants des provinces voisines qui, pendant les événements dont il a été question, se sont enfuis et refugiés dans la Principauté, de même le retour dans leurs foyers des habitants de la Principauté qui s'étaient refugiés chez nous a été également assuré.

Nous sommes convaincus que vous et le peuple Serbe vous apprécierez ce qui vient d'être arrêté comme une preuve manifeste de notre confiance et bienveillance Impériale à votre égard, et que vous vous attacherez à persister dans l'accomplissement des devoirs de la Principauté vis-à-vis de notre Gouvernement Impérial; et en conséquence nous vous avons délivré et envoyé notre présent Firman, revêtu de notre sanction Impériale, pour proclamer que sur cette base le *statu quo ante* a été rétabli, et que les ordres nécessaires ont été donnés à qui de droit afin de faire évacuer les points au delà de la ligne de démarcation qui se trouvent en possession de notre armée.

Donné le 18 Safer, 1294 ($\frac{\text{20 Février}}{\text{4 Mars}}$, 1877).

No. 450.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 29.)

(No. 214.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 21, 1877.

WITH reference to my telegrams of the 17th and 19th instant, respecting the sentences passed on Bulgarians accused of complicity in the late revolutionary movement I have the honour to inclose herewith a corrected list of sentences passed by the Adrianople Tribunals, which I have this day received from Mr. Vice-Consul Dupuis, and which, he says, may be looked upon as accurate.

It shows that seven persons were sentenced to death for complicity in the Eski Zagra revolt by the ordinary Adrianople Tribunal, and that eleven were sentenced to death and six to different terms of imprisonment by the Special Commissioner sent to Adrianople to try the persons connected with the rising last spring.

The fifty-three political prisoners mentioned in Mr. Dupuis' list as being now in the prison of Adrianople were sentenced by the Special Commission which sat at Philippopoli, and in my despatch No. 151 of the 1st of March, your Lordship will find the necessary information respecting the duration of their sentences.

Mr. Dupuis has explained to me that the delay which has unfortunately taken place in obtaining the information, and the contradictory statements that have been made, arise from the officials at Adrianople having been changed since the trials took place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure in No. 450.

List of Persons Executed for Complicity in the Eski Zaghra Revolt.

Names.	By what Tribunal Convicted.	Date of Conviction.	Remarks.
Kandoradji Kolco	Medjlus Divani Temis of Adrianople	May 1876 ..	Was executed at Philippopolis.
Gospodin Michailowski	Ditto	Ditto ..	Ditto.
Taifont Giegio Stefan	Ditto	Ditto ..	Was executed in Adrianople.
Stoyo Oglon Dimizio	Ditto	Ditto ..	Ditto.
Radi Oglon Kolio	Ditto	Ditto ..	Was executed in Philippopolis.
Tchilzanli Kristo	Ditto	Ditto ..	Ditto.
Arg Oglon Rossi	Ditto	Ditto ..	Ditto.

List of Persons Executed for Complicity in Bulgarian Insurrection.

Hadji Todor Oglon Elia	Mehkiemei Feok-el-ade. Special Commission of Adrianople	July 1876 ..	Was executed in Adrianople.
Zotzo Oglon Vassil	Ditto	Ditto ..	Were executed in different places in the Vilayet.
Dim Oglon Nicola	Ditto	Ditto ..	
Dimitri Oglon Mihal	Ditto	Ditto ..	
Mintri Oglon Stavri	Ditto	Ditto ..	
Dimtz Oglon Georgui	Ditto	Ditto ..	
Kourd Oglon Andon	Ditto	Ditto ..	
Pantaleodji André Oglon Zeco ..	Ditto	Ditto ..	Was executed at Adrianople.
Baltadji Oglon Athanas	Ditto	Ditto ..	Was executed out of this district.
Kalco Oglon Georgui	Ditto	Ditto ..	Was executed in Adrianople.
Veli Oglon Zahari	Ditto	Ditto ..	

List of Persons Sentenced to various Terms of Imprisonment by Mehkiemei Feok-il-ade (Special Commission) of Adrianople.

Name.	Nature of Offence.	Date of Conviction.	Nature of Sentence.	Remarks.
Deli Petro	Complicity in Bulgarian insurrection	July 4, 1876 ..	10 years' imprisonment ..	Confined at Adrianople.
Mukdar Nino	Ditto	Ditto ..	For life.	
Gogdan	Ditto	Ditto ..	Ditto.	
Kouyoundji Dimitri ..	Ditto	Aug. 6, 1876 ..	5 years' imprisonment.	
Hakoi Dimitri	Ditto	Ditto ..	Ditto.	
Pazayati Petro	Ditto	July 9, 1876 ..	15 years' imprisonment.	

There are also in the Adrianople prison fifty-three political prisoners sent from Philippopolis.

No. 451.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 29.)

(No. 215.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 21, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 157 of the 2nd instant I have the honour to inclose copy of a further despatch from Mr. Consul Blunt, forwarding a Memorandum on the subject of the alleged massacre at the village of Boulougtra, which has been drawn up by the Acting British Vice-Consul at Cavalla.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 451.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Jocelyn.

Sir, *Salonica, March* 16, 1877.

CAPTAIN BAIRD, commanding Her Majesty's ship "Swiftsure," whom I requested to procure for me information about the alleged massacre at the village of Boulougtra, district of Xanthi, in the event of his visiting Cavalla during his late cruise in the Archipelago, has just placed in my hands the inclosed Memorandum on the subject, which was prepared by the Acting British Vice-Consul on board the "Swiftsure" the day this vessel took her departure from there (the 14th instant).

Dr. Picchioli refers to the efforts Halil Agha is making to screen one of the accused parties in this outrage, a certain Ahmet Kehaya.

I have addressed a representation on the subject to the Pasha of Salonica, and requested him to send orders by telegraph to the Governor of Drama in the sense suggested by Dr. Picchioli.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 451.

Vice-Consul Picchioli to Consul Blunt.

(Translation.)

Sir, *On board the "Swiftsure," (no date)* 10·45 A.M.

HAVING just arrived on board to pay my respects to the Captain of the "Swiftsure," I learn that she leaves at midday for Salonica, I have therefore no time before me to write on my return to Cavalla. I therefore must write on board, but can only do so hurriedly and in telegraphic form.

First of all let me rectify a mistake I made in a name.

The man who is accused on all sides of having taken the leading part in the Boulougtra murder is not called Mahmoud but Achmet Kiaya, and is agent for a firm belonging to Khalil.

This said Achmet has been arrested by the excellent Binbashi Mahmoud Effendi.

Achmet Kiaya's knife has been recognized by many persons.

This knife is now in the hands of the Kaimakam of Xanthi, who is such a drunkard that no one can guarantee that he would not restore it to anybody who offered a good bribe. It would be far better to send both knife and pistols to Drama, where, please God, some day the case will be tried.

I know that Khalil denies that Achmet is in his employ, but he is trying underhand to save him, in which he does very wrong, and could easily come to harm himself.

Everybody knows for certain that it was Achmet who with his own hand murdered a member of the family Anastasi, but no one dares to give evidence for fear of Khalil.

I shall write to the Mutessarif of Drama asking him to let me know to what stage the trial has got. But it is necessary that you should prevail upon the Vali to act, in order that justice should be done.

The Binbashi Mahmoud Effendi has been sent away from Xanti, but the Mutessarif of Drama has had the good sense to give him another post.

This man has behaved very well, but fears some powerful vengeance for having arrested one of Khalil's men. This man could also make revelations, but neither does nor will make them, as he knows what would happen to him if he did.

Anastas, of Bolustra's property, bordered on Khalil's farm, of which the Turk Achmet was "Kiaya."

People say that Achmet wanted a piece of Anastas' land, and as the young man of Anastas' family was the chief obstacle in the way he determined to get rid of him.

But nobody, not even the Christians, maintain that the murder was committed from motives of religious or political fanaticism.

I am, &c.
(Signed) D. PICCHIOLI.

No. 452.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 29.)

(No. 216.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 21, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Salonica, reporting the prevalence of sickness among the Circassian colonists at Armyro, near the Greek frontier, and that many of them are leaving that part of the country in consequence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure in No. 452.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Jocelyn.

Sir, *Salonica, March* 16, 1877.

MR. VICE-CONSUL SUTER informs me in a recent letter from Volo that there is much sickness among the Circassian colonists at Armyro, near the Hellenic frontier, and that many are dying; that several lots, either permitted or clandestinely, have got away to Constantinople and that more are following. Thus it is likely, Mr. Suter adds, that district may soon get rid of the whole of those colonists.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 453.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 29.)

(No. 220.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 23, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 190 of the 14th instant, inclosing a list of reforms given to me by the Grand Vizier as being in course of execution, I have the honour to inclose herewith the copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Adrianople, reporting the introduction of one of these into the vilayet in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure in No. 453.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Mr. Jocelyn.

Sir, *Adrianople, March* 20, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to report that the local government of this vilayet has within the last few days named a Commission which will shortly commence organizing this province into communal divisions on the basis of 5,000 to 10,000 inhabitants to each commune or district.

His Excellency Ali Pasha, the Vali, has also charged the Alai Bey, or Chief of the Police, of this city with the reorganization of the gendarmerie, or zaptiehs, to be composed of Mussulmans as well as Christians, and as there are several vacancies at present in this force, and four Christians having applied for admission into that service, they will probably

be employed if they are found to be men of good character, and able to give security for their good behaviour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DUPUIS.

No. 454.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 29.)

(No. 221.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 23, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 204 of the 17th instant, regarding an outrage committed at Potzarsko, near Vodina in Macedonia, I have the honour to transmit herewith a report which I have received from Mr. Consul Blunt on the subject.

I advised the Grand Vizier to act upon the Consul's suggestion of sending the newly appointed Christian Musteshar to investigate the case, and his Highness at once sent orders by telegraph that on his arrival at Salonica he should be instructed to proceed immediately to the district in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 454.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Jocelyn.

Sir, *Salonica, March* 12, 1877.

WITH reference to the outrages perpetrated in the Bulgarian village Potzarsko, I have succeeded in obtaining only this afternoon through a confidential channel, a copy of the telegraphic report which has been received by the Pasha of Salonica from the district Governor of Vodina relative to this serious affair.

I transmit to you herewith inclosed this document, and regret that owing to the early departure of the steamer I am unable to accompany it with a translation.

The Mixed Commission, composed of a Turk and a Christian, and assisted by Turkish and Christian members from the Medjliss of Vodina, has proceeded to Potzarsko, and is investigating the affair, and I shall not fail to report the result as soon as the investigation is concluded.

In the meantime the case engrosses public attention here; and as an impression prevails that influences are at work to induce the Commission to suppress the truth, I think it would be well if the Porte directed the Musteshar of this vilayet, the newly appointed sub-Governor, who is expected to arrive here by to-morrow's steamer from Constantinople, to proceed to Vodina, and personally attend to the case. Such a measure would go far to satisfy public opinion in this place.

I should also report that the Pasha of Salonica has put under arrest the Captain of Police, who is accused of having connived at the perpetration of the outrages in question, and has sent him to Potzarsko to answer the charges against him.

Delegates have also arrived here from Potzarsko to represent the case to the Pasha. My dragoman, M. Bizzo, is in communication with them; and they have declared to him that besides plundering the village the Turks also beat several of the inhabitants, destroyed their images and ravished some of the women.

I have spoken strongly to the Pasha of Salonica on the subject, and pointed out to him the feeling of indignation which these excesses will produce, and the discredit they will cause to his administration, and urged that the guilty parties should be visited with the utmost rigour of the law.

He observed to me that he was doing his best to learn the whole truth of the case; that he would not fail to punish the guilty parties, but that he had reason to think that the alleged excesses have been greatly exaggerated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

P.S.—Not having had time to make a copy of the Vodina report, I beg you will forward it to Her Majesty's Secretary of State with a copy of this despatch.

J. E. B.

Inclosure 2 in No. 454.

The Kaïmakam of Vodina to the Governor-General of Salonica.

(Traduction.)
(Télégraphique.) *Le 19 Février* (v.s.), 1877.

QUELQUES jours après les événements du village de Bozaro, les autorités, aussitôt qu'elles en ont été informées, ont fait venir le nommé Bekir Pehlivan et ses compagnons nommés Metcho, Ahmedje, Halil et d'autres, et ayant réuni le Conseil d'Administration et le Conseil Judiciaire, elles ont procédé à l'interrogatoire de ces individus, qui, depuis ce moment, n'ont pas été un moment délivrés de prison.* . . . . . .

Le susdit Bekir Pehlivan et son compagnon Metcho ont reçu des habitants du susdit village, sous titre de dîme, 126 mesures de maïs, 900 ocques de poivre, et 2,227 ocques de haricots, et 11,000 piastres en argent, par l'intermédiaire du susdit capitaine, et après le départ de ce dernier du village de Bozaro, le susdit Bekir et ses compagnons ont encore encaissé 6,646 piastres, de sorte qu'en dehors de ce qui a été reçu en nature les susnommés ont encaissé en tout 17,646 piastres. Ceci ressort de leur interrogatoire et des investigations faites par les délégués envoyés d'ici. Ces délégués ont mis sous les scellés ce qui avait été pris en nature, c'est-à-dire, le poivre, le maïs et les haricots. Quant aux réclamations des habitants concernant beaucoup d'autres objets qui seraient pillés par les susdits malfaiteurs, Bekir Pehlivan, ainsi que les autres, opposent des dénégations péremptories et bien qu'on fasse à cet égard des investigations soutenues on n'a pu rien encore découvrir de manière que bien qu'on n'épargne aucun effort pour découvrir les objets dont le pillage est allégué, il est indispensable de compléter l'interrogatoire de tous ces malfaiteurs qui se sont rendus à Bozaro. Or, la plupart d'entre eux se trouvant dans un autre district et leur transfert étant difficile, nous avons l'honneur de suggérer l'opportunité de l'envoi d'un juge d'instruction sur les lieux pour procéder à leur interrogatoire, et que moi, votre serviteur, et le Caïmacam de Yenidjé, nous soyons autorisés d'envoyer à un endroit convenable du Nahié (canton) de Caradja Abad, un membre du Conseil Administratif et un membre du Conseil Judiciaire, eu égard à l'importance du cas.

No. 455.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 29.)

(No. 222.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 23, 1877.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 208 of the 20th instant, I have the honour to inclose the official translation of the Sultan's speech on the occasion of the opening of the Turkish Parliament

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure in No. 455.

Sultan's Speech at Opening of Turkish Parliament.

Messieurs les Sénateurs,
Messieurs les Députés,

C'EST avec la plus vive satisfaction que j'ouvre le Parlement de mon Empire qui se réunit aujourd'hui pour la première fois.

Vous connaissez tous que le développement de la grandeur et de la force des Etats aussi bien que des peuples repose sur la justice.

Mon Gouvernement Impérial a puisé, à l'origine, sa force et son influence dans le monde au respect qu'il a porté à la justice dans l'administration de l'Etat, ainsi qu'aux droits et aux intérêts de toutes les classes de ses sujets.

L'un de mes ancêtres, Sultan Mehmed le Conquérant, de glorieuse mémoire, a accordé des immunités pour assurer la liberté individuelle et la liberté de conscience et des cultes.

Marchant sur ses traces, mes augustes prédécesseurs aussi n'ont jamais laissé porter atteinte à la liberté de conscience et des cultes. Il est incontestable que c'est par une

* Cette partie est incompréhensible.

conséquence naturelle de ce même principe de haute justice que nos diverses populations ont pu conserver depuis six siècles leur caractère national, leur langue et leur religion.

C'est grâce au respect qui entourait alors la justice et l'application des lois que la richesse et le bien-être de l'Etat et de la nation avaient reçu un développement si remarquable; mais, à la longue, les dispositions du Chéri et celles des lois établies n'étant plus observées, le cours du progrès se ralentit et la force première se changea en faiblesse.

Mais mon aïeul, Sultan Mahmoud, d'heureuse mémoire, ayant fait disparaître le désordre, cause réelle de l'affaiblissement dont l'Etat était frappé depuis longtemps, et conjuré la crise provoquée par la révolte des janissaires, a délivré l'Etat et la nation des entraves qui arrêtaient leur essor, et, le premier, il a ouvert la voie à l'introduction dans notre pays de la civilisation de l'Europe moderne.

Mon illustre père, feu Sultan Abdul-Médjid, suivant ce noble exemple, a promulgué le Tanzimat qui garantit la vie, les biens et l'honneur de nos sujets. Depuis lors les ressources du commerce et de l'agriculture de notre Empire se sont développées, les revenus de l'Etat se sont en peu de temps considérablement accrus; des lois et des règlements ont été élaborés pour favoriser les améliorations nécessaires et enfin, l'instruction dans les arts et dans les sciences a acquis une notable extension.

Ces premiers essais de réformes et la sécurité intérieure de l'Etat permettaient d'entrevoir pour l'Empire un avenir de progrès et de prospérité; mais la guerre de Crimée est malheureusement survenue et a arrêté les efforts qui tendaient à améliorer la situation de l'Empire et de ses habitants.

Jusqu'alors notre Trésor Impérial n'avait contracté aucune dette à l'étranger; mais vu l'impossibilité de faire face aux dépenses urgentes de la guerre au moyen de nos propres revenus, on fut obligé de recourir à des emprunts extérieurs. C'est ainsi que la voie des emprunts s'est trouvée ouverte. Il est vrai que les Grandes Puissances alliées, reconnaissant la justice de notre cause, nous ont prêté un concours complet et efficace, qui comptera comme une grande page dans les annales de l'histoire, et grâce auquel un Traité de Paix a été conclu qui place l'intégrité et l'indépendance de notre Empire sous la garantie des Puissances Européennes.

Il était alors permis de croire que cette paix nous assurerait dans l'avenir le temps et les moyens de rétablir nos affaires intérieures et de faire réellement entrer le pays dans la voie du progrès.

Malheureusement, les événements qui se sont succédé ont amené un résultat opposé à celui qu'on était en droit d'espérer; des intrigues et des excitations coupables, en créant des embarras intérieurs et successifs, non-seulement ne nous ont pas permis de nous consacrer à la réorganisation et à la réforme de l'Etat, mais encore nous ont mis dans l'obligation de mobiliser chaque année des corps d'armée extraordinaires et de retenir sous les drapeaux une partie importante de la population valide du pays. Le développement de notre commerce et de notre agriculture en a été entravé. Malgré tant de difficultés et d'empêchements, le progrès moral et matériel ne s'est pourtant pas arrêté. L'augmentation constante des revenus de l'Etat depuis vingt ans est une preuve de l'amélioration qui ne cessait de s'opérer dans les conditions du pays et dans le bien-être des populations.

Bien que nos embarras actuels découlent des circonstances qui viennent d'être énumérées, il eût été possible cependant d'en atténuer sensiblement la portée, et de conserver le crédit de l'Etat si, dans l'administration des finances, on s'était attaché aux principes d'une stricte loyauté. Mais les mesures qui furent prises à cette époque, en vue, apparemment, d'améliorer les finances, ne pouvaient qu'augmenter la gravité de la situation du moment que, sans songer à l'avenir, on ne visait qu'à se procurer des expédients momentanés.

La persistance de ces difficultés, jointe à la nécessité de nous pourvoir d'un matériel de guerre nouveau et d'une marine cuirassée, devenus les principaux éléments de la puissance militaire des Etats, et, en outre, l'inobservation des règles d'économie, qui doivent régir le budget des recettes et des dépenses, ont introduit graduellement le désordre dans nos finances, ont augmenté nos dettes, et nous ont enfin conduits à l'état de gêne extrême dans lequel nous nous trouvons aujourd'hui.

Sur ces entrefaites, et sous l'influence d'intrigues et de menées subversives se produisirent en Herzégovine des événements qui prirent bientôt des proportions plus considérables.

Les hostilités avec la Serbie et le Monténégro ont tout-à-coup éclaté, et de sérieuses complications sont survenues dans le monde politique. C'est au moment où cette crise atteignait son plus grand degré d'intensité que, par la volonté du Très-Haut, j'ai été appelé à occuper le trône de mes augustes ancêtres.

Les difficultés et les dangers que présente notre situation générale ne peuvent être comparés à aucune des crises que mon Empire a traversées jusqu'ici. J'ai été obligé tout

d'abord, afin de sauvegarder les droits de l'Empire, d'augmenter l'effectif de mes armées sur divers points, et d'appeler sous les armes 700,000 combattants. Puis, j'ai considéré comme un devoir de chercher, au moyen de réformes fondamentales, à mettre fin, avec l'aide de Dieu, au désordre de la situation, et à assurer ainsi notre avenir d'une manière permanente.

Il est évident que, grâce aux ressources dont la Providence a doté notre pays, et aux aptitudes de mes sujets, une bonne administration nous permettrait de faire en peu de temps des progrès considérables. Si nous n'avons pas atteint le niveau du progrès du monde civilisé, il faut en voir la cause dans l'instabilité des institutions nécessaires à l'Etat et des lois et règlements qui en découlent, instabilité qui provenait de ce que tout était l'œuvre d'un Gouvernement absolu qui méconnaissait le principe salutaire de la délibération en commun.

Les progrès obtenus par les Etats civilisés, la sécurité et la richesse dont ils jouissent, sont le fruit de la participation de tous à l'établissement des lois, et à l'administration des affaires publiques. J'ai cru nécessaire de rechercher pour nous aussi dans cette voie les moyens d'arriver au progrès en donnant pour base à notre système de législation le suffrage général du pays, et c'est dans ce but que j'ai promulgué la Constitution.

Par la création de ces nouvelles institutions, mon intention n'a pas été tant d'inviter les populations à assister à la gestion des affaires générales, qu'à faire servir ces institutions d'instrument puissant pour la réforme de l'administration, et pour l'extirpation des abus et des pratiques arbitraires.

Indépendamment des avantages qui lui sont inhérents, la Constitution est destinée à jeter les bases de la fraternité et de l'union parmi mes peuples et à ouvrir ainsi la voie à une prospérité également partagée entre tous.

Mes illustres ancêtres ont remporté de grandes victoires, qui ont réuni sous leur sceptre les populations multiples qui habitent ce vaste Empire.

Il restait pourtant à rallier des peuples si divers par les croyances et les nationalités, sous une loi unique dans le sentiment d'une même existence.

La Divine Providence, dans son inépuisable bonté, a voulu que cette œuvre reçût son accomplissement.

Désormais tous mes sujets, devenus enfants d'une même patrie et vivant sous l'égide tutélaire d'une même loi, seront appelés d'un même nom, de ce nom si hautement porté par mes aïeux depuis 600 ans et qui a laissé tant de souvenirs de gloire et de grandeur dans les fastes de l'histoire. Le nom d'Ottoman, jusqu'à présent personnifiant l'idée de force et de puissance, symbolisera dans l'avenir, j'en ai la conviction, le maintien en un seul faisceau des intérêts désormais identiques de tous mes sujets.

C'est en m'inspirant de ces principes et de ces intentions que je me suis tracé la voie dans laquelle je suis résolu à persévérer. Je m'attends maintenant à ce que votre co-opération efficace et intelligente permette de recueillir d'une Constitution, fondée sur la justice, les résultats que l'on est en droit d'espérer.

J'ai cru qu'il était d'une urgence absolue d'assurer la liberté et l'égalité de mes sujets, de mettre un terme au régime de l'arbitraire, de placer la confection et l'application des lois et la gestion des affaires sous le contrôle de la volonté du pays; en un mot de rattacher les règles de notre système administratif au principe constitutionnel et délibératif.

A l'effet de réaliser mes vœux les plus chers à ce sujet, j'ai décidé la réunion d'un Parlement, composé du Sénat et de la Chambre des Députés.

Il vous incombe à présent de remplir fidèlement et avec droiture les devoirs législatifs confiés à votre patriotisme. Dans cette tâche, vous ne devez vous laisser influencer par aucune considération de personnes, et n'avoir en vue, dans l'exécution fidèle de vos travaux, que le salut et le bien-être de l'Etat et du pays. Les améliorations dont nous avons besoin aujourd'hui et les réformes administratives attendues de toutes parts sont de la plus haute importance. L'application graduelle de ces mesures dépend de l'accord qui régnera entre vous.

Le Conseil d'Etat s'occupe, d'un autre côté, de l'élaboration des projets de loi qui vous seront soumis.

Dans la présente session, vous serez saisis des projets de règlement intérieur de la Chambre, de loi électorale, de la loi générale concernant les vilayets et l'administration des communes, de loi municipale, du code de procédure civile, de lois relatives à la réorganisation des tribunaux, au mode d'avancement et de mise à la retraite des juges, aux attributions et au droit à la retraite de tous les fonctionnaires publics en général, de loi de la presse, de la Cour des Comptes, et enfin de la loi sur le budget.

Je désire vivement que ces diverses lois soient successivement étudiées, discutées et délibérées.

Vous aurez à vous occuper d'urgence de la réorganisation des tribunaux, unique

sauvegarde des droits de chacun, et de la formation du corps de la gendarmerie. C double but ne peut être atteint que par l'augmentation du chiffre des allocations spéciales

Or, ainsi que vous le verrez par le budget soumis à la Chambre, nos finances se trouvent dans un état extrêmement difficile. Je vous recommande de vous appliquer avant tout à adopter en commun des mesures propres à parer aux difficultés de cette situation et à rétablir le crédit de l'Etat, tout en ayant soin de prendre simultanément les mesures propres à assurer les fonds exigés par les réformes urgentes.

Un des plus grands besoins de mon Empire et de mes sujets est le développement de l'agriculture et de l'industrie. Ce résultat, si indispensable au progrès de la civilisation et à l'accroissement de la richesse publique, est étroitement lié au développement des sciences et de l'instruction publique.

Des projets de loi ayant pour objet l'amélioration des établissements scolaires et la fixation du programme des études vous seront soumis dans votre prochaine session.

En ce qui concerne la bonne application des lois précitées, ainsi que de toutes celles auxquelles il y aura lieu de pourvoir plus tard, on ne saurait attacher une trop grande importance au bon choix des fonctionnaires de l'Etat. Mes Ministres y consacreront tous leurs soins en même temps qu'ils veilleront à la mise en pratique du système de récompenses et d'encouragements que la Constitution à établi en faveur des employés intègres.

Du jour de mon avènement, pénétré de cette vérité, j'ai décidé de fonder à mes frais une école destinée à fournir dans l'avenir le personnel de l'administration générale.

Ainsi qu'il est dit dans le règlement de cette école, les élèves sortant de cet établissement pourront aspirer aux postes les plus élevés de l'administration et de la diplomatie et ils seront recrutés sans distinction de culte parmi toutes les classes de mes sujets et leur avancement sera réglé d'après leurs capacités.

Depuis bientôt deux ans nous avons dû faire face à des complications intérieures. Durant cette période, notamment pendant les hostilités avec la Serbie et le Monténégro, mes fidèles sujets ont tous donné des preuves de patriotisme et mes troupes ont accompli, au prix de grandes souffrances, des actes de courage et de bravoure que j'apprécie hautement.

Dans tous ces événements, nous n'avons eu en vue que la défense de nos droits. Les efforts que nous avons faits dans ce but ont eu pour résultat le rétablissement de la paix avec la Serbie. Quant aux dispositions à adopter par suite des négociations engagées avec le Monténégro, elles seront soumises à votre examen dès votre première réunion et je ne saurais trop vous recommander de hâter vos délibérations à ce sujet.

Mes relations avec les Puissances Etrangères sont toujours empreintes de cette amitié et de cette déférence qui constituent pour mon Empire une tradition des plus précieuses.

Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique ayant proposé, il y a quelques mois, de réunir une Conférence dans ma capitale, et les autres Puissances ayant appuyé les bases proposées, ma Sublime Porte a adhéré à cette Conférence. Si cette réunion n'a pas abouti à une entente définitive, nous n'en avons pas moins montré que nous étions prêts à devancer dans l'application les vœux et les conseils des Puissances qui pouvaient se concilier avec les Traités, les règles du droit international, et les nécessités impérieuses de notre situation et de nos droits.

Les causes de ce défaut d'entente se trouvent bien plus dans la forme et dans les procédés d'application que dans le fond même de la question.

J'apprécie hautement la nécessité impérieuse de porter à un plus haut degré de perfection les progrès déjà si considérables réalisés, depuis l'origine du Tanzimat jusqu'à ce jour, dans toutes les branches de l'administration et dans la situation générale de mon Empire. Tous mes efforts seront consacrés à cette œuvre. Toutefois, je considère aussi comme un de mes plus grands devoirs celui de veiller à ce qu'il ne soit porté aucune atteinte à la dignité et à l'indépendance de mon Empire. Le temps se chargera de prouver à tous la loyauté et la pureté de mes intentions.

Mon but étant de persévérer dans la voie du maintien et de la défense de nos droits et de notre indépendance, en aucun cas je ne m'en écarterai dans mes actes ultérieurs.

Avant comme après la Conférence, mon Gouvernement a constamment donné des preuves de sa sincérité et de sa modération qui, j'aime à l'espérer, contribueront à resserrer davantage les liens d'amitié et de sympathie qui nous unissent à la grande famille Européenne.

Que le Tout-Puissant daigne accorder le succès à nos communs efforts!

No. 456.

Musurus Pasha to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 29.)

My Lord, *Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le* 27 *Mars*, 1877.

JE m'empresse d'accuser réception de la lettre que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'écrire en date d'aujourd'hui, à la suite d'une information télégraphique du Chargé d'Affaires Britannique à Constantinople sur la manière dont j'ai rapporté à mon Gouvernement une conversation que j'ai eue avec votre Excellence au sujet des difficultés qui se seraient élevées par rapport aux conditions du Protocole.

En effet, dans le résumé que j'ai télégraphié à son Excellence Safvet Pacha de notre conversation du 22 de ce mois, j'ai rapporté que votre Excellence m'avait dit que, "comme, contrairement aux vues de l'Angleterre, qui insistait pour que, avant la signature du Protocole, la Russie prît, sous une forme quelconque, l'engagement de démobiliser son armée, le Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg, d'après une dernière communication du Comte Schouvaloff, refusait de prendre un tel engagement, et subordonnait sa démobilisation à des conditions inacceptables, le Gouvernement Britannique persistait dans sa résolution, et que, dès lors, le Protocole à signer entre les six Puissances devenait désormais sans objet, et devait être considéré, pour le moment au moins, comme abandonné." J'ai ajouté que, d'après votre Excellence, "la situation était à présent telle, que la Sublime Porte devait se tenir préparée pour la guerre, et aviser à l'efficacité de son armée."

Il résulte cependant de la lettre précitée de votre Excellence que j'ai mal compris ses paroles, et j'ai hâté de lui en exprimer mes vifs regrets.

Aussi, dès la réception de la lettre précitée de votre Excellence, me suis-je empressé d'en télégraphier aujourd'hui même la teneur à son Excellence Safvet Pacha, pour l'information du Gouvernement Impérial, et en vue de rectifier le contenu de la dépêche télégraphique par laquelle j'ai rendu compte à son Excellence de notre conversation du 22 de ce mois.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) MUSURUS.

No. 457.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 29, 1877, 10·15 A.M.

HER Majesty's Government wish you to proceed to Constantinople as Special Ambassador to take charge of the Embassy during the absence of the Ambassador.

You will retain your salary, which will be made up to 8,000*l.* a-year during your stay at Constantinople, and your travelling expenses and any actual expenses of removal will be allowed.

If you accept, let me know how soon you can be in England on your way out, and you should telegraph to Sir J. Walsham that he is required to return to Madrid to take charge.

No. 458.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 29, 2·55 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Serajevo, March* 29, 1877, 1·30 P.M.

INSTRUCTIONS have been received from Porte to hasten military preparations. Officers are to join their regiments and the Mustafiz to be called out.

No. 459.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 29, 2·55 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Serajevo, March* 29, 1877, 1·30 P.M.

No arms have been distributed to the Turkish population since last year.

No. 460.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *Madrid, March* 29, 1877.

I ACCEPT offer of Her Majesty's Government, and trust that I may justify the confidence they have placed in me. I have telegraphed to Walsham to come here immediately, and will be ready to leave for England at once.

No. 461.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cairo, March* 29, 1877.

THE Sultan has telegraphed to the Viceroy that the threatening aspect of affairs makes him desirous to know, in the event of war, to what extent and in what manner Egypt could assist Turkey.

My advice being asked, I answered exactly in the sense of your Lordship's despatch No. 16, Confidential, of the 15th ultimo.

No. 462.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 206.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 29, 1877.

WITH reference to the despatch addressed to you by Her Majesty's Consul at Salonica No. 24, dated the 10th instant, I have to instruct you to call the attention of the Porte to the statements made by Mr. Blunt respecting brigandage in the Greek provinces of Turkey.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 463.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 208.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 29, 1877.

I HAVE to instruct you to call the attention of the Porte to the present state of affairs in Crete, as reported by Mr. Consul Sandwith in his despatch addressed to me, No. 8, Political, of the 12th instant, a copy of which you will already have received from him.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 464.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 210. Most Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 29, 1877.

I RECEIVED with much surprise your telegram of the 24th instant, stating that Musurus Pasha had reported to the Porte some supposed observations of mine to the effect that difficulties having arisen with regard to the conditions of the proposed Protocol, its conclusion had been dropped for the present, and that, consequently, the Porte had better prepare for war and take steps to complete its military preparations.

I telegraphed to you in reply, instructing you to deny emphatically that I had made any such statement or given any such advice, adding that communications were still being exchanged respecting the Protocol.

On receiving your second telegram, stating that orders had been sent to the provinces to call out the third ban of the reserve, and that the Turkish fleet had received directions

to proceed to the Upper Bosphorus, I again instructed you by telegraph to make it clearly understood to the Grand Vizier and Minister for Foreign Affairs that I had never given any advice of the kind attributed to me by Musurus Pasha. I stated that Her Majesty's Government continued to negotiate for a pacific solution, and considered it most essential that Turkey should maintain a prudent and conciliatory attitude.

I at the same time addressed a note to Musurus Pasha, and received from him the reply of which I inclose copies for your own information only.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 465.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 110.)
Foreign Office, March 29, 1877.

My Lord,

I LEARN from your Excellency's despatch No. 109, marked Confidential, of the 23rd instant, that Prince Bismarck had stated to you that he had learnt with regret that Her Majesty's Government could only agree to become a party to the Protocol on the condition of receiving a formal assurance in writing from the Russian Government that they will demobilize. This remark shows that the Prince has not correctly understood the position of Her Majesty's Government. All that they have required from that of Russia is an assurance of the intention of the latter to demobilize, given in such a form as to constitute an engagement honourably binding, and as to be capable of being made public when the Protocol is laid before Parliament.

I should wish your Excellency to take an early opportunity, by speaking to Prince Bismarck in this sense, of removing the erroneous impression which he appears to entertain as to the policy of this country in this respect.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 466.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.[*]

(No. 103. Very Confidential.)
Foreign Office, March 29, 1877.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith, for your confidential information, copies of despatches which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh on the subject of the signature of the Protocol on Eastern affairs proposed by the Russian Government.†

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 467.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Holmes.

(No. 3.)
Foreign Office, March 29, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 10 of the 7th instant, commenting on the statement made by the Rev. Mr. McCull in a letter to the "Times," as to the impalement of a man named Rado Buyich near Novi, which was referred to in Mr. Freeman's despatch of the 17th of March of last year; and I have to instruct you to make further inquiry into this case, and to endeavour to ascertain whether the alleged impalement took place.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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[*] A similar despatch was addressed to Lord Odo Russell.

† Nos. 427, 428, and 443.

No. 468.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 29, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, March 29, 1877.

VICE-CONSUL at Adrianople reports that all the miscreants concerned in Bektidjis affair have been secured for trial, except one, who escaped. Ringleader confessed, but became insane, and is now confined at Constantinople.

I have directed Vice-Consul to proceed to other villages mentioned in "Times" letter, and to report.

No. 469.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, March 30, 1877, 10 A.M.

I APPROVE your suggestion that Mr. Blunt should remain at Salonica until Mr. Barker arrives there.

Instruct him accordingly.

No. 470.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 30.)

(Telegraphic.)
Madrid, March 30, 1877.

UNLESS you wish me to see King and Foreign Minister, who do not arrive here before 4th or 5th April, I could leave Madrid on Monday or Tuesday next, and be in London on Saturday morning.

Unless my departure is very urgent, it would be difficult to leave before, as all business is suspended here until Monday.

No. 471.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 31.)

(No. 16. Political.)
Beyrout, March 16, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 11 of the 14th ultimo I have the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that Raef Effendi arrived on the 9th instant and entered upon the execution of his duties as Mutasserif of Beyrout, where he was most cordially welcomed by all classes of the population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 472.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 31.)

(No. 59. Political.)
Cettigné, March 19, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour to receive this day Sir Andrew Buchanan's telegram of yesterday, conveying to me your Lordship's wishes that I should co-operate with my Austrian and Russian colleagues in advising the Prince of Montenegro to be moderate in his demands respecting the frontier.

The Russian Secretary, who is acting in M. Yonine's absence, keeps himself entirely aloof from Colonel Thömmel and from me, and gives us no information as to his action with the Prince, nor, as far as we can learn, does His Highness see very much of him, or encourage his visits.

Colonel Thömmel has not yet received any new instructions from Count Andrassy.

Your Lordship may rest assured that I shall not fail to act in the sense of the orders

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above referred to, and that I am fully impressed with their importance, and alive to the anxiety of Her Majesty's Government for the conclusion of peace. My object in my frequent discussions with Prince Nicholas has hitherto been to avoid any appearance of pressure, and to confine myself to encouraging His Highness's own pacific dispositions whenever I have the chance. The Prince's good sense will do, and has already done, much to moderate his original pretensions, and I hope that he may be led, by the same inspiration, still further in a pacific direction, without the necessity of much extraneous propulsion.

A moment will probably come when it will be necessary for Austria and England to exert all their influence in favour of an extensive capitulation; and, with your Lordship's sanction, I propose, as does my Austrian colleague, to defer the employment of extreme and joint pressure until then.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 473.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 31.)

(No. 60. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, March 20, 1877.*

THE Montenegrin delegates telegraphed last night that they had not yet been able to decypher Prince Nicholas's telegram of the 16th instant, a copy of which was inclosed in my despatch to your Lordship No. 50 of the 17th instant. It is thought here that the confusion in the transmission of the message was intentional on the part of the Turkish officials.

I have this morning telegraphed to your Lordship that the Prince requests the English and Austrian Governments to instruct their Chargés d'Affaires at Constantinople to communicate to the Montenegrin Delegates the substance of the telegrams sent by me and by my Austrian colleague on the 16th instant, which contain the general terms of His Highness' reply, in order to assist in the elucidation of the original message, which is being re-telegraphed this morning.

Colonel Thömmel has telegraphed additional details to Count Andrassy, so that the Austro-Hungarian Government will be in possession by telegraph of almost the entire text of the Prince's despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 474.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 31.)

(No. 61. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, March 21, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a telegram from M. Petrovich, dated yesterday evening, informing Prince Nicholas that, as the armistice was to expire last night, the Porte has ordered its military commanders to undertake no operations, and to remain on the defensive.

I also inclose copy of His Highness' reply, sent this morning, instructing M. Petrovich to let Safvet Pasha know that the Montenegrin troops had received similar orders.

I telegraphed this information to your Lordship this day at noon.

I may add, on excellent independent military authority, that the Turkish troops would, under present circumstances, require from two to three months' preparation before they could resume the offensive.

I have &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON

Inclosure 1 in No. 474.

M. Petrovich to the Prince of Montenegro.

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le $\frac{8}{20}$ Mars*, 1877, 6·10 P.M.

ARMISTICE expirant cette nuit, Safvet nous prie porter à votre connaissance que Porte ordonne aux Commandants militaires n'entreprendre aucune opération et se tenir sur défensive.

Inclosure 2 in No. 474.

The Prince of Montenegro to M. Petrovich.

(Télégraphique.) *Cettigné, le $\frac{9}{21}$ Mars*, 1877, 11 A.M.

EN réponse à votre dépêche d'hier je vous charge de dire à Safvet Pacha que mes troupes ont ordre strict de rester sur la défensive. Vous devez posséder maintenant clairement le sens complet de la grande dépêche de Vendredi répétée par quatre voies différentes, et je vous en confirme le contenu.

No. 475.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 31.)

(No. 62. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, March 22, 1877.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 61 of yesterday's date, respecting the expiration of the armistice between Turkey and Montenegro, I have the honour to inclose copies of telegrams which have passed between Prince Nicholas, the Grand Vizier, and the Montenegrin Envoys at Constantinople, by the terms of which the armistice is prolonged until the $\frac{1st}{13th}$ April exclusively.

The Prince was not very eager to agree to so lengthened a prolongation, which he fears will have the effect of encouraging the Porte's resistance to his demands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 475.

The Grand Vizier to the Prince of Montenegro.

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le $\frac{21}{9}$ Mars*, 1877, 6·30 P.M.

LES négociations entamées avec les Délégués de votre Altesse n'ayant pas encore abouti, le Gouvernement Impérial a cru devoir prolonger jusqu'au $\frac{13}{1}$ Avril, 1877, exclusivement, l'armistice dont le terme a expiré aujourd'hui. Des ordres en conséquence ayant été donnés aux commandants militaires Ottomans, je prie votre Altesse de vouloir bien transmettre de son côté à qui de droit des ordres dans le même sens et m'en donner avis.

Inclosure 2 in No. 475.

The Prince of Montenegro to the Grand Vizier.

(Télégraphique.) *Cettigné, le $\frac{10}{22}$ Mars*, 1877, 11 A.M.

PAR dépêche du 20 courant j'avais chargé mes Délégués de dire à son Altesse Safvet Pacha que mes troupes avaient des ordres stricts correspondants à ceux donnés par la Porte aux siennes. Je les charge maintenant de ma réponse à la proposition contenue dans la dépêche de votre Altesse du 21.

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Inclosure 3 in No. 475.

The Prince of Montenegro to M. Petrovich.

(Télégraphique.) *Cettigné, le* $\frac{19}{31}$ *Mars,* 1877, 11 A.M.

JE vous charge de déclarer à son Altesse le Grand Vizier que j'adhère à sa proposition, de prolonger l'armistice jusqu'au $\frac{1}{13}$ Avril exclusivement, afin de donner aux négociations entamées le temps d'aboutir dans un sens ou dans l'autre. Veuillez dire à son Altesse que mes ordres sont donnés en conséquence.

No. 476.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 31.)

(No. 63. Political.)

Cettigné, March 23, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 56 of the 19th instant, respecting the transport of stores for Nichsich and Montenegro, I have the honour to inclose copies of further correspondence, showing the steps taken by Mr. Consul Green and by me to carry out the arrangements proposed by the Porte, and agreed to by the Prince of Montenegro.

Your Lordship will see that Mr. Green's energetic and judicious conduct has mainly contributed to the success, thus far, of a very troublesome negotiation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 476.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Monson.

Scutari, March 19, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

DERVISH PASHA is very anxious to know the exact number of horses that he may expect from the Prince, so that he may make his arrangements at once.

He has asked me to telegraph the above and solicit an early reply. Part of the maize from Oboti has already reached this.

Inclosure 2 in No. 476.

Danish Effendi to Mr. Monson.

Ragusa, March 19, 1877.

(Télégraphique.)

VEUILLEZ, je vous prie, assurer à M. Duby que j'ignorais la nouvelle entente intervenue pour le ravitaillement de Nichsich. Comme vous avez mêné cette négociation je vous serais reconnaissant de me faire connaître les dispositions que vous avez prises pour les vivres entreposés à Risano, qui nous ont occasionné de grands frais pour transport, emmagasinage, manutention, débarquement et autres. Il serait à désirer qu'on les fît aussi passer à Nichsich en considération surtout des prolongations successives de l'armistice.

Inclosure 3 in No. 476.

M. Duby to Mr. Monson.

Cettigné, le 19 *Mars,* 1877.

Cher Monsieur,

SON ALTESSE me charge de vous prier de télégraphier à Mr. Green que M. Stefan Radonich part à l'instant pour Riéka afin de s'y embarquer pour Scutari à bord du vapeur Ture. Le Prince lui donne l'instruction de s'entendre avec Dervish Pacha pour la marche aussi prompte et facile que possible des convois de vivres à destination de Nichsich, par le territoire Monténégrin. Le Prince ne peut mettre plus de 200 chevaux aux service des Tures pour ces convois, parcequ'il n'en a pas davantage à sa disposition. Les Tures du reste avaient proposé de faire tout le transport à leur frais.

Son Altesse vous sera obligé si vous voulez bien charger Mr. Green d'exprimer de sa part à son Excellence Dervish Pacha la satisfaction qu'elle a éprouvée de cet échange de bons procédés et de la manière franche dont ces pourparlers ont été conduits.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) R. DUBY, *Secrétaire de Son Altesse.*

P.S.—En réponse à votre lettre de tout à l'heure je vous prie de vouloir bien assurer à Danish Effendi qu'on ne doute nullement qu'il fût, en me télégraphiant hier, dans l'ignorance du changement de projet de son Gouvernement.

Quant à l'objet principal de sa dépêche il semble à Son Altesse que les vivres amenés à Risano par le Gouvernement Ottoman, et qu'il renonce à faire transporter à Nichsich parcequ'ils sont de trop mauvaise qualité, ne nous concernent nullement. Nous regretterions fort pour Danish Effendi qu'il en résultât pour lui un surcroît d'ennuis; mais après tout c'est une affaire entre les autorités Ottomanes et leurs fournisseurs, qui leur ont livré des marchandises impossibles à utiliser.

R. D.

Inclosure 4 in No. 476.

Mr. Monson to Consul Kirby Green.

(Telegraphic.) *Cettigné, March* 19, 1877, 7 P.M.

PRINCE NICHOLAS requests me to state that M. Stefan Radonich has started for Riéka to embark on board the Turkish steamer for Scutari. The Prince instructs him to concert with Dervish Pasha for the quickest and easiest transport of the stores for Nichsich over Montenegrin territory. The Prince cannot lend more than 200 horses, having no more at his disposal, and besides the Ottoman Government proposed to perform the transport service itself.

The Prince begs that you will express on his behalf to Dervish Pasha his satisfaction at this interchange of good offices, and at the frankness with which the *pourparlers* have been conducted.

Inclosure 5 in No. 476.

Mr. Monson to Danish Effendi.

(Télégraphique.) *Cettigné, le* 19 *Mars,* 1877, 7 *heures soir.*

M. DUBY me prie de vous assurer que l'on a bien compris que lors de votre télégramme d'hier vous ignorez le changement de projet de votre Gouvernement.

Quant à l'objet principal de votre dépêche il semble au Prince Nicholas que les vivres amenés à Risano par le Gouvernement Ottoman, et que ce Gouvernement renonce à faire transporter à Nichsich parcequ'ils sont de trop mauvaise qualité, ne concernent nullement son Altesse. On regretterait beaucoup pour vous qu'il en résultât un surcroit d'ennuis, mais après tout c'est une affaire entre les autorités Ottomanes et leurs fournisseurs, qui leur ont livré des marchandises impossibles à utiliser.

Inclosure 6 in No. 476.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Monson.

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, March* 20, 1877.

DERVISH PASHA begs me to telegraph that all the grain-vessels have already arrived at Medua, that half of them have already transhipped their cargoes, and the other half will have finished in four or five days.

Three hundred horses are waiting at Spuz to pass to Nichsich, and orders are requested for Montenegrin authorities at Danilograd to immediately put themselves in communication with those at Spuz.

I strongly recommend an effort being made to fall in with Dervish Pasha's request that the loan of horses should be somewhat increased.

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Inclosure 7 in No. 476.

Mr. Monson to Consul Kirby Green.

(Telegraphic.) *Cettigné, March* 20, 1877, 4 P.M.

PRINCE NICHOLAS has telegraphed immediate orders to Natchaluik at Danilograd, to send word to Spuz that the passage stands open over Montenegro for the Turkish convoys.

Please state on my behalf to Dervish Pasha that I am sorry that it has not been clearly explained to him from Constantinople that the loan of horses is a purely voluntary act of courtesy on the part of the Prince; and that as His Highness assures me he has no more at his disposal, it is impossible for me to press this subject any more.

Inclosure 8 in No. 476.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Monson.

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, March* 21, 1877, 10·5 P.M.

M. RADONICH and I succeeded last night in making Dervish Pasha understand that the Azarian arrangements have been suspended. All ought now to go smoothly.

Hope you will receive in due course three letters, dated 18th, 20th, and 21st instant, sent viâ Riéka.

Inclosure 9 in No. 476.

Mr. Monson to Consul Kirby Green.

(Telegraphic.) *Cettigné, March* 22, 1877, 10 A.M.

YESTERDAY'S telegram received, and also letter of 18th. Have answered by post. Am glad that your energetic representations have been successful, and that the principles of the new arrangement are now thoroughly understood.

Inclosure 10 in No. 476.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Monson.

(Extract.) *Scutari, March* 21, 1877.

DERVISH PASHA is most anxious to increase the amount of provisions to be sent to Nichsich by 100,000 okes, and he has asked me to see whether you could obtain this favour from Montenegro. He says that the Turkish Government has showed itself very liberal to the Principality, and when the delay in the arrival of the maize took place it purchased here 100,000 okes, of which 15,000 were sent yesterday. Dervish Pasha would be prepared, if the increase for Nichsich is granted, to hold ready here 100,000 okes of maize to be forwarded to Riéka on your demand though me, should any delay owing to the weather stop the transit of the Montenegrin grain. This stoppage may easily occur if the weather continues in its present humour.

Inclosure 11 in No. 476.

Danish Effendi to Mr. Monson.

(Télégraphique.) *Ragusa, March* 22, 1877, 1·20 P.M.

SON Excellence Suleiman Pacha me télégraphie que les vivres entreposés à Risano étant d'excellente qualité il n'a jamais été question de les mettre de côté. Que l'approvisionnement de Nichsich se fait actuellement par l'Albanie sur la demande que vous avez bien voulu formuler au nom du Prince en invoquant le cas de force majeure. Cela étant notre situation pour les approvisionnements de Risano reste le même, et il serait convenable que l'on s'entendit une fois pour toutes pour leur acheminement. Je vous serais très reconnissant d'insister là dessus et de provoquer les ordres nécessaires pour que l'on

emporté à Nichsich pour commencer sept charges d'objets pharmaceutiques que l'on me réclame urgement. J'attends impatiemment votre réponse. Les patrons des voiliers qui ont transporté de Raguse les farines déclarent que des Monténégrins leur avaient hautement déclaré que les vivres étaient entreposés en pure perte à Risano, ou que l'entente intervenue ne recevrait pas son exécution. Je ne veux pas un instant m'arrêter à ces rapports, connaissant combien Son Altesse le Prince Nicolas est soucieux de son autorité et combien sa parole est sacrée. Aussi je me complais à l'idée que les démarches que vous voudrez bien faire aboutiront certainement.

Inclosure 12 in No. 476.

Mr. Monson to Consul Kirby Green.

(Telegraphic.) *Cettigné, March* 22, 1877, 9 P.M.

I REGRET that extra supplies requested in your letter of the 21st cannot be accorded, it being considered here that the amount originally fixed is ample.

Danish Effendi telegraphs requesting that the stores already at Risano may be transported to Nichsich. Prince Nicholas considers that this is purely a question for the Turkish authorities, who have now undertaken the transport themselves. He only declares that the original amount agreed upon with Azarian must not be exceeded.

All your letters received.

Inclosure 13 in No. 476.

Mr. Monson to Danish Effendi.

(Télégraphique.) *Cettigné, March* 22, 1877, 9 P.M.

PRINCE NICOLAS croît que c'est purement l'affaire des autorités Ottommes décider par quelles voies vivres seront transportés à Nichsich, la Porte ayant renoncé au transport Monténégrin et entrepris faire transporter à ses propres frais. Son Altesse ne saurait pourtant consentir à une augmentation de la quantité stipulée avec Azarian, de sorte que si vous expédiez vivres de Risano il faudra diminuer du côté de Scutari. Quant aux objets pharmaceutiques le Prince consent à leur expédition immédiate.

No. 477.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 31.)

(No. 33. Political.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, March* 21, 1877.

PERTEW EFFENDI called upon me to-day, and informed me that he had yesterday presented the Sultan's Firman to Prince Milan, in the presence of all the Ministers. The Prince, he said, appeared satisfied with the wording of the Firman, and made a reply to that effect.

The question of saluting the Turkish flag on the occasion created some difficulties, as Pertew Effendi had received instructions to see that ceremony carried out; but on its being pointed out to him that the custom had fallen into disuse, and a revival of it would cause a good deal of ill-feeling among the Servian population, he telegraphed to Constantinople, and the ceremony was not exacted.

The question of the island on the Drina, to which the Servians lay claim, he says will be settled by a Commission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 478.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 31.)

(No. 94. Confidential.)
Rome, March 24, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the repetition of your Lordship's telegram to Sir Andrew Buchanan of the 22nd instant, giving an account of an interview between your Lordship, Count Schouvaloff, and General Ignatiew, relative to the amendments proposed by the Russian Government in the Protocol concerted between your Lordship and Count Schouvaloff, and as to the conditions upon which, in the opinion of these Ambassadors, the Emperor might be disposed to disarm.

Although not authorized to do so, I ventured to take upon myself to acquaint M. Melegari, when I saw him yesterday, with the nature of the demands now for the first time put forward.

His Excellency would observe, I said, that what Her Majesty's Government was required to do was to sign a Protocol according to which, amongst other things, they would bind themselves to unite with the other Powers in inviting Turkey to disarm, while practically there would not only be no guarantee that Russia would do so likewise, but on the contrary, according to the statement now made by Count Schouvaloff and General Ignatiew, a certainty that she would not demobilize until certain things beyond the control of the Powers were obtained. Thus, if Turkey disarmed at the invitation of the Powers, and was afterwards attacked by Russia for any of the reasons specified by the Russian Ambassadors, the Powers would have the responsibility of having placed Turkey in a defenceless position.

M. Melegari entirely admitted this reasoning, and did not attempt to conceal that the intelligence I now gave him produced upon him the most deplorable impression.

It was hardly credible, his Excellency said, that the Russian Government should make all this parade of acting in a pacific and conciliatory spirit, sending a special Ambassador in order to give greater weight to her declarations, and yet when it came to the point of discussing the only condition upon which there could be any prospect of peace being maintained, viz., the demobilization of the Russian army, that they should turn round and make this dependent upon the realization of other events to which they had never before alluded.

His Excellency went on to say that he had always felt a certain misgiving as to the sincerity of Russia from the moment he had seen the difficulties raised by Montenegro in the peace negotiations. It was difficult for him not to believe that if Russia really desired peace between Montenegro and Turkey it would be easy to obtain compliance with her wishes at Cettigné. He considered, he said, the condition that Turkey should take the initiative in disarming quite untenable. Its admission would imply that Turkey and not Russia was the menacing Power.

Finally, M. Melegari said that he perfectly understood your Lordship not being willing to sign a Protocol unless you were enabled to lay before Parliament the justification for doing so, viz., an assurance that Russia would disarm, and his Excellency added that he considered the attitude of Her Majesty's Government and your Lordship's language perfectly correct.

In the course of the interview his Excellency read me a telegram from General Menabrea, stating that your Lordship was not particular as to the form in which the Russian assurance of disarmament should be given, and that you will be satisfied if, at the moment of signing the Protocol, the Russian Ambassador should read a despatch or a telegram from his Government on this subject of which you would take note in writing, and make a corresponding announcement in the House of Lords.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 479.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 31.)

(No. 270.)
Vienna, March 25, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that General Ignatiew arrived here this morning, and that he proposes leaving on Tuesday for St. Petersburgh.

During a visit which he has just paid to me he spoke confidently of a formula being found respecting the demobilization of the Russian army which will be accepted as satisfactory by Her Majesty's Government, while it will neither compromise the dignity of Russia nor diminish the influence which the Russian armaments have exercised in inducing the Porte to adopt measures for the improvement of the condition of the Christian subjects of the Sultan.

I spoke to him of Count Andrassy's wish to insert a clause in the Protocol respecting the refugees; and he said that he had convinced his Excellency that their interests are sufficiently provided for by the wording of the Protocol which has been already agreed upon, or been under consideration, in London.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 480.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 31.)

(No. 272. Confidential.)
Vienna, March 19, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 77 of the 16th instant, transmitting to me a copy of the draft Protocol agreed upon between your Lordship, and accepted by Count Schouvaloff *ad referendum* for the approval of his Government, I have the honour to inform you that Count Andrassy thinks it may be accepted by the other Powers.

He regrets, however, that there is no reference in it to the refugees, and I think he will probably suggest that a clause should be inserted with respect to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 481.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 31.)

(No. 273. Confidential.)
Vienna, March 20, 1877.

My Lord,

AFTER receiving your Lordship's despatch No. 82 of the 17th instant, inclosing a Memorandum of the alterations in the Protocol which were adopted that day, I called at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and as I could neither see Count Andrassy nor Baron Orczy, I had an interview with Baron Calice, from whom I learnt that a report of the alterations in question had been received from Count Beust by the morning's post.

At his request, however, I communicated to him confidentially the inclosure in your Lordship's despatch, in order that it might be compared with Count Beust's report.

He appeared anxious to learn whether the draft of the Protocol had been approved of by the Russian Government, and whether they had accepted the conditions which your Lordship had attached to its signature; but I could only express an opinion that it is reasonable to suppose that Count Schouvaloff and General Ignatiew expect that the arrangement which they have made with your Lordship will be confirmed.

I may state, however, in strict confidence that it appears to me from some observations of the Emperor and Count Andrassy, that they both think it improbable that Russia will give a written engagement to demobilize her army on the Roumanian frontier, and that they doubt the expediency of insisting upon her doing so.

Having met Count Andrassy later in the day, I spoke to him of the alterations which had been adopted in the Protocol, and he expressed an approval of them.

I think, however, he will propose that some reference should be made in paragraph 6 to the reforms which the Porte engaged to carry out by its note of February of last year, before note is taken of its declaration that the reforms enumerated in paragraph 7 will be forthwith carried out.

He said that without specially quoting the engagements of the Porte respecting the refugees, the Turkish Government might in this way be reminded that it will be expected to fulfil the obligations which it had contracted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 482.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 31.)

(No. 274.)
Vienna, March 23, 1877.

My Lord,

HAVING received this morning your telegram of yesterday, explaining the present position of the negotiations with Russia, I drew up a Memorandum of its contents, which I read confidentially to Count Andrassy, and I found that the information which he had received on the subject from Count Beust did not report quite clearly what had taken place between your Lordship and the Russian Ambassador.

In thanking me for the communication, his Excellency said that he intends telegraphing to-day to Count Beust, that he does not feel called upon to express an opinion on the question of the demobilization of the Russian forces, as he has never been asked for one. He said, however, that he has always entertained doubts of Russia giving such an assurance on this subject as Her Majesty's Government wish to receive.

With respect to the draft Protocol, with the text of which he has been made confidentially acquainted, he will inform Count Beust that he could accept it; but that, while he approves of an amendment proposed by Russia relative to the Porte's engagements respecting Bosnia and the Herzegovina, he would further suggest that no reforms should be enumerated, and that an expectation should be merely expressed in general terms, that the Porte will be expected to carry out the reforms which it accepted by its note of February of last year, and also those which it has since promised by the Circular of Safvet Pasha.

His object is to secure in this manner the fulfilment of the Porte's engagements respecting the refugees, and he intimated that if his suggestion is not adopted, he will probably call upon the Porte to re-imburse Austria for the sums she has expended on their maintenance, and thus raise a fund which would enable him to assist them in returning to their homes.

He seemed to think also that Austria could induce the Porte to enter into this arrangement by threatening, if she refused, to cease exercising any control over the refugees, and to leave them at liberty to cross and recross the frontier as they might think fit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 483.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 31.)

(No. 277.)
Vienna, March 27, 1877.

My Lord,

THE Emperor granted an audience to General Ignatiew this morning. His Excellency will also dine at the Palace, and leave in the evening for Berlin.

I called on him to-day, when he held much the same language to me as on Sunday, assuring me that a satisfactory arrangement of the disarmament question would be effected, and that Count Andrassy would be satisfied with the wording of the Protocol without introducing into it any reference to the Turkish note of February 1876.

I learn from others, however, that he speaks of war being unavoidable, if Her Majesty's Government maintain their demand to receive the formal engagement in writing which they have asked for; and Count Andrassy is considered by some of my colleagues to entertain serious doubts of a satisfactory settlement of the question being come to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 484.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 31.)

(No. 281. Confidential.)
Vienna, March 28, 1877.

My Lord,

I CALLED this morning on Count Andrassy, and acquainted him, confidentially, with the proposals of the Russian Government referred to in your confidential telegram of yesterday.

He said that General Ignatiew had already communicated them to him, and with every wish that they might obtain the object which they have in view, he had expressed to him serious misgivings lest leaving the question of disarmament to be treated at St. Petersburgh by a Turkish Envoy might not raise difficulties as to the Power which should take the initiative in disarming, that might prove fatal to peace.

He said that for the present he would make no proposal on the subject, but would merely acquaint Count Beust with his opinion that the safest course to pursue would be for the Powers to sign the Protocol, on an understanding that Russia would immediately afterwards declare by a despatch that she would order the demobilisation of her forces as soon as she was satisfied that the Porte accepts the advice of the Powers, and will proceed seriously to carry out the reforms mentioned in the Protocol; and he believed the Porte would make no difficulty in giving satisfactory assurances on this point, on the Protocol being communicated to it.

He said he would regret if the demobilisation was made to depend on peace being concluded with Montenegro, as such a stipulation would encourage Prince Nicholas in maintaining demands which the Porte might find it impossible to grant, and might also promote a renewal of the insurrection in Bosnia and the Herzegowina.

He had just learnt, however, from the Turkish Ambassador, that General Ignatiew had told him that the Porte is perfectly justified in refusing to cede Nichsich, as it involves a question of religious feeling, and that peace ought to be made by her agreeing to the cession of Skupichi.

I think his Excellency will probably communicate this information to Prince Nicholas.

I observed that I had received a telegram from Cettigné, reporting that the Porte, in granting the navigation of the Boyana, will stipulate for the channel being kept open by Montenegro; and his Excellency answered that he did not think it desirable that the Porte should undertake to do so, as the state of the river would, in that case, become a source of constant dangerous disputes between her and the Principality.

I asked him whether it were true that General Ignatiew had induced him to give up his intention of proposing that a reference should be made in the Protocol to the Turkish note of February of last year, as all the promises contained in it are included in the wording of the Protocol, which has been already under consideration. He did not state clearly, in reply, whether he had changed his opinion upon this point, but observed that, if a reference to the note was objected to, or if the Porte refused to fulfil its former engagements on the subject of the refugees, he could have recourse to the measures of which he had already spoken to me, of demanding for their use the reimbursement of the sums which Austria had expended upon them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 485.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 31.)

(No. 283.)
Vienna, March 29, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE been informed that the number of refugees from Bosnia and the Herzegovina on Austrian territory amount to 110,918. Of these 31,634 are in Dalmatia, 25,810 in Croatia, and 53,474 on the military frontier.

I am told also that inquiries have been made on this subject by the Porte, with a view to the measures which it proposes to take for facilitating the return of the refugees to their homes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 486.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 31.)

(No. 284.) *Vienna, March 29, 1877.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Monson's despatch No. 63 of the 23rd instant, reporting the measures which he has taken, in concert with Mr. Consul Green, for promoting an arrangement between the Montenegrin and Turkish authorities for provisioning Nichsich and providing food for the refugees on Montenegrin territory, I think it right to inform your Lordship that Mr. Monson has called my attention to the indefatigable exertions by which Mr. Consul Green succeeded in preventing dangerous disputes between the two parties to the arrangement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 487.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 31.)

(No. 285.) *Vienna, March 29, 1877.*

My Lord,

SEVERAL reports having recently appeared in the newspapers of a renewal of insurrectionary movements in Bosnia, I have endeavoured to ascertain whether any reliance can be placed upon them, and I have been told at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs that, in consequence of the province being almost without troops, marauding parties from the mountains on the frontier may have made inroads into some districts of the interior, but that no political importance can be attached to such incidents, and that, as far as the Government are informed, there is no appearance whatever of an organized attempt at insurrection.

I learn also from the Turkish Ambassador that the Austrian authorities have taken effective measures to prevent the foreign adventurers, who have served as volunteers in the Servian army, and have recently been discharged, from passing into Bosnia, and that means had been taken for obliging them to proceed towards the coast, with a view to their return to their homes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 488.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 31.)

(No. 286.) *Vienna, March 29, 1877.*

My Lord,

BEFORE receiving this afternoon your Lordship's telegram of yesterday I was informed by Baron Orczy that you had accepted the proposals of the Russian Ambassador which you had communicated to me on the previous day.

I drew up, however, a memorandum of the substance of your telegram, and called with it at the Foreign Office, and as Count Andrassy and Baron Orczy had both gone out I saw Baron Calice, and having compared it with Count Beust's report, I found them essentially the same.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 489.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 31.)

Constantinople, March 30, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

REPLIES received from principal Consulates that arms have not been distributed to Mahomedan population. At Scutari and at Erzeroum Mussulmans are habitually armed; at the former place some Christian mountaineers have received rifles.

The calling out of the last reserves has probably given rise to the report of a general arming.

No. 490.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 31, 1877, 8·15 A.M.*

I QUITE approve your proposal to leave Madrid on Monday or Tuesday.

No. 491.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 31, 1877, 12·50 P.M.*

IT has been thought necessary that England should be represented by some one holding the rank of Ambassador at Constantinople.

Mr. Layard has accordingly been selected to hold this office temporarily, and will proceed to Constantinople as soon as possible after coming to England to receive his instructions. Communicate this to the Porte, and express the hope of Her Majesty's Government that the choice will be agreeable to the Sultan.

Your conduct in charge of the Embassy has given complete satisfaction and is entirely approved. I shall mention this to Musurus Pasha.

No. 492.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.**

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March 31, 1877, 1 P.M.*

I HAVE agreed with Count Schouvaloff as to the terms of the Protocol.

No. 493.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.**

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March 31, 1877, 1·50 P.M.*

THE following is a translation of the draft of Declaration to be made to me by the Russian Ambassador before the signature of the Protocol:—

If peace with Montenegro is concluded, and the Porte accepts the advice of Europe and shows itself ready to replace its forces on a peace footing, and to undertake seriously the reforms mentioned in the Protocol, let the Porte send to St. Petersburgh a Special Envoy to treat of disarmament, to which His Majesty the Emperor will consent also on his side.

If massacres such as those which have occurred in Bulgaria took place, that would necessarily put a stop to the measures of demobilization.

No. 494.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.**

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March 31, 1877, 3 P.M.*

THE following is the draft of the Declaration to be made by me to the Russian Ambassador before the signature of the Protocol:—

"Inasmuch as it is solely in the interests of European peace that Her Majesty's Government have consented to sign the Protocol proposed by that of Russia, it is understood beforehand that, in the event of the object proposed not being attained, viz., reciprocal disarmament on the part of Russia and Turkey, and peace between them, the Protocol in question shall be regarded as null and void."

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* Repeated to other Embassies.

No. 495.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.**

(No. 109.)

Foreign Office, March 31, 1877.

My Lord,

I TRANSMIT to you, herewith, copies of the Protocol, signed by me and the Ambassadors of Austria, France, Germany, Italy, and Russia, this day, together with a *procès-verbal* of the declarations made by me and by the Russian and Italian Ambassadors before signature.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 495.

Protocole.

LES Puissances qui ont entrepris en commun la pacification de l'Orient et ont participé dans cette vue à la Conférence de Constantinople, reconnaissent que le moyen le plus sûr d'atteindre le but qu'elles se sont proposé, est de maintenir avant tout l'entente si heureusement établie entre elles et d'affirmer de nouveau ensemble l'intérêt commun qu'elles prennent à l'amélioration du sort des populations Chrétiennes de la Turquie, et aux réformes à introduire en Bosnie, Herzégovine, et Bulgarie que la Porte a acceptées sauf à les appliquer elle-même.

Elles prennent acte de la conclusion de la paix avec la Serbie.

Quant au Monténégro les Puissances considèrent comme désirable, dans l'intérêt d'un arrangement solide et durable, la rectification des frontières et la libre navigation de la Boïana.

Les Puissances considèrent les arrangements intervenus ou à intervenir entre la Porte et les deux Principautés comme un pas accompli vers l'apaisement qui est l'objet de leurs communs désirs.

Elles invitent la Porte à le consolider en replaçant ses armées sur le pied de paix, sauf le nombre de troupes indispensable pour le maintien de l'ordre, et en mettant en œuvre, dans le plus court délai possible, les réformes nécessaires pour la tranquillité et le bien-être des provinces, de l'état desquelles la Conférence s'est préoccupée. Elles reconnaissent que la Porte s'est déclarée prête à en réaliser une partie importante.

Elles prennent acte spécialement de la circulaire de la Porte du 13 Février, 1876, et des déclarations faites par le Gouvernement Ottoman pendant la Conférence et depuis par l'entremise de ses Représentants.

En présence de ces bonnes dispositions de la Porte et de son intérêt évident à y donner immédiatement suite, les Puissances se croient fondées à espérer que celle-ci profitera de l'apaisement actuel pour appliquer avec énergie les mesures destinées à apporter à la condition des populations Chrétiennes l'amélioration effective unanimement réclamée comme indispensable à la tranquillité de l'Europe, et, qu'une fois entrée dans cette voie, elle comprendra qu'il est de son honneur, comme de son intérêt, d'y persévérer loyalement et efficacement.

Les Puissances se proposent de veiller avec soin, par l'intermédiaire de leurs Représentants à Constantinople et de leurs Agents locaux, à la façon dont les promesses du Gouvernement Ottoman seront exécutées.

Si leur espoir se trouvait encore une fois déçu et si la condition des sujets Chrétiens du Sultan n'était pas améliorée de manière à prévenir le retour des complications qui troublent périodiquement le repos de l'Orient, elles croient devoir déclarer qu'un tel état de choses serait incompatible avec leurs intérêts et ceux de l'Europe en général. En pareil cas elles se réservent d'aviser en commun aux moyens qu'elles jugeront les plus propres à assurer le bien-être des populations Chrétiennes et les intérêts de la paix générale.

Fait à Londres, le 31 Mars, 1877.

(Signé) MÜNSTER.
BEUST.
L. D'HARCOURT.
DERBY.
L. F. MENABREA.
SCHOUVALOFF.

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* Identic despatches were addressed to Lord Lyons, Lord O. Russell, Sir A. Paget, Sir A. Buchanan, and Mr. Jocelyn

Inclosure 2 in No. 495.

Procès-Verbal d'une Réunion tenue au Foreign Office, le 31 *Mars*, 1877.

M. LE COMTE DE MÜNSTER, Ambassadeur de l'Allemagne, M. le Comte de Beust, Ambassadeur de l'Autriche-Hongrie, M. le Marquis d'Harcourt, Ambassadeur de la France, M. le Comte de Derby, Principal Secrétaire d'Etat de Sa Majesté Britannique pour les Affaires Etrangères, M. le Général Comte de Menabrea, Ambassadeur de l'Italie, et M. le Comte de Schouvaloff, Ambassadeur de la Russie, se sont réunis aujourd'hui au Foreign Office pour signer le Protocole proposé par la Russie, relatif aux affaires de l'Orient.

M. le Comte de Schouvaloff a fait la déclaration suivante en en remettant un *promemorid* entre les mains du Secrétaire d'Etat de Sa Majesté Britannique :—

"Si la paix avec le Monténégro est conclue, et que la Porte accepte les conseils de l'Europe et se montre prête à se remettre sur le pied de paix, et à entreprendre sérieusement les réformes mentionnées dans le Protocole, qu'elle envoie à St. Pétersbourg un Envoyé Spécial pour traiter du désarmement auquel Sa Majesté l'Empereur consentirait aussi de son côté.

"Si des massacres pareils à ceux qui ont ensanglanté la Bulgarie avaient lieu, cela arrêterait nécessairement les mesures de démobilisation."

M. le Comte de Derby a lu et remis à chacun des autres Plénipotentiaires une déclaration, dont copie est annexée au présent procès-verbal.

M. le Général Comte de Menabrea a déclaré que l'Italie n'est engagée par la signature du Protocole de ce jour que pour autant que l'entente heureusement établie entre toutes les Puissances par le Protocole lui-même sera maintenue.

Il a été ensuite procédé à la signature du Protocole.

(Signé) MÜNSTER.
BEUST.
L. D'HARCOURT.
DERBY.
L. F. MENABREA.
SCHOUVALOFF.

Annexe au Procès-Verbal du 31 *Mars*, 1877.

The Undersigned, Her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, makes the following declaration in regard to the Protocol signed this day by the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain, Germany, Austria-Hungary, France, Italy, and Russia :—

Inasmuch as it is solely in the interests of European peace that Her Britannic Majesty's Government have consented to sign the Protocol proposed by that of Russia, it is understood beforehand that, in the event of the object proposed not being attained—namely, reciprocal disarmament on the part of Russia and Turkey, and peace between them—the Protocol in question shall be regarded as null and void.

(Signed) DERBY.

London, March 31, 1877.

Déclaration faite par l'Ambassadeur de Russie avant la signature du Protocole.

Si la paix avec le Monténégro est conclue, et que la Porte accepte les conseils de l'Europe, et se montre prête à se remettre sur le pied de paix, et à entreprendre sérieusement les réformes mentionnées dans le Protocole, qu'elle envoie à St. Pétersbourg un Envoyé Spécial pour traiter du désarmement, auquel Sa Majesté l'Empereur consentirait aussi de son côté.

Si des massacres pareils à ceux qui ont ensanglanté la Bulgarie avaient lieu, cela arrêterait nécessairement les mesures de démobilisation.

F.O. 4/44 / 3
PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON
ALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE

Déclaration faite par l'Ambassadeur d'Italie avant la signature du Protocole.

L'Italie n'est engagé par la signature du Protocole de ce jour que pour autant que l'entente heureusement établie entre toutes les Puissances par le Protocole lui-même sera maintenue.

No. 496.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 31, 5 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March* 31, 1877, 2·20 P.M.

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW informed me with satisfaction this morning that everything had been arranged between your Lordship and the Russian Ambassador, and that Protocol would probably be signed to-day. He urgently requests your Lordship to transmit by telegraph Protocol in full, with instructions to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to avoid unnecessary delay in presenting it to the Porte. He is very anxious to receive Porte's answer before the 13th April (N. S.), he tells me—for what reasons I know not.

His Highness' intelligence yesterday from Constantinople unsatisfactory. Great agitation in consequence of the telegram from Musurus, stating that war was imminent; increased armaments preparing by sea and land.

Prince Gortchakow is much disquieted about peace negotiations with Montenegro. Without their successful conclusion no pacific solution will be possible. Russia will not abandon Montenegro.

General Ignatiew arrived last night.

No. 497.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 31, 1877, 6 P.M.

THE Protocol, as agreed to by Count Schouvaloff and myself and signed this afternoon, is in the same words as draft No. 4 sent to you with these alterations:—

In first paragraph "The Powers which have 'entrepris en commun,' the pacification, &c."

At end of first paragraph add the words "que la Porte a acceptées sauf à les appliquer elle-même."

In second paragraph omit the words "and Montenegro."

Third paragraph begins "'Quant au Monténégro,' the Powers consider, &c."

Sixth paragraph runs "They take act specially of the Circular of the Porte of February 16, 1876, and of the declarations made by the Ottoman Government during the Conference and afterwards 'par l'entremise' of its Representatives."

The enumeration of the reforms is omitted. The rest of the Protocol stands exactly as in the text of draft 4, the other Russian amendments being abandoned.

No. 498.

The Earl of Derby to Musurus Pasha.

LORD DERBY presents his compliments to Musurus Pasha and has the honour to inclose herewith, for his Excellency's confidential information, copies of the Protocol signed this day and of the declarations made before its signature, which Musurus Pasha will no doubt be desirous of telegraphing to his Government in cypher.

Foreign Office, March 31, 1877.

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* Repeated to other Embassies.

No. 499.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March* 31, 1877.

FOLLOWING is from Monson dated to-day:—

"For Lord Derby.

"Prince Nicholas has received intelligence this morning from number of the newspapers of the signature of the Protocol by the Great Powers. His Highness gives me to understand that in consequence he will not yet recall his Delegates from Constantinople, as he was on the point of doing.

"My Austrian colleague informs me very confidentially that General Ignatiew has told Turkish Ambassador at Vienna that the retention of Nichsich is a point of honour for Turkey, at the same time stating to the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs that the Douga should be given to Montenegro! This declaration has much irritated His Highness, as being both unintelligible as rectification of the frontier, and very prejudicial to a satisfactory solution of the negotiations."

No. 500.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Monson.

(No. 11.) *Foreign Office, March* 31, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch No. 45, Most Confidential, of the 13th instant, reporting a conversation which you had with Prince Nicholas, in which His Highness suggested the mediation of Her Majesty's Government in arranging terms of peace, I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government would not be unwilling to consider the proposal to act as mediator, either singly or with other powers, in regard to the boundary question, if this proposal were made in a definite shape, but you should point out to His Highness that without the Porte's assent such mediation would be impracticable.

It would be better that the Prince should try and come to terms with the Porte on his own account and not risk the revival of hostilities by making too stringent demands or indefinitely postponing a settlement by proposals for mediation which might be too probably fruitless.

I cannot conclude this despatch without informing you that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve the language you held to Prince Nicholas as reported in your above-mentioned despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 501.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 223.) *Foreign Office, March* 31, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE to inform you that Her Majesty's Government have thought it necessary that England should be represented during the present state of affairs in the East by some one holding the rank of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

Mr. Layard has accordingly been selected to hold the appointment temporarily, and he will proceed to Constantinople with as little delay as possible, after coming to London in order to receive instructions regarding his duties.

You will inform the Porte of the arrangement thus made, and you will express the hope of Her Majesty's Government that the choice of Mr. Layard as Her Majesty's temporary Ambassador at Constantinople will be agreeable to the Sultan.

I take this opportunity of expressing to you my complete satisfaction at your conduct whilst in charge of Her Majesty's Embassy, and I have to convey to you the entire approval of Her Majesty's Government of the manner in which you have carried out their instructions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 502.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 31, *at night.*)

Constantinople, March 31, 1877, 4·40 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

TURKISH Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh was yesterday informed by Lord A. Loftus that Protocol will shortly be signed in London, but that Russia will not disarm unless peace be concluded with Montenegro, and that if hostilities are renewed she will make common cause with the Principality.

END.